

# South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The month of December blanketed the state with several snow storms ending with a New Year's Eve blizzard. Average snow depth for the state is 8.5 inches. Farm activities included caring for livestock, hauling grain, moving snow, and performing maintenance on equipment from the fall harvest.

This report was based on information from county extension educators, Farm Service Agency county directors, and other reporters across the state.

## WEATHER INFORMATION

Several minor and 2-3 larger winter storms crossed the state during December leading to travel problems and a fairly significant snow pack across much of the northern and particularly northeastern part of the state, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. Northwestern flow out of Canada brought these storms from northwest to southeast across the state. The storms left all of the state with at least a few inches of snow cover as of the end of the month. The larger amounts range from over a foot across northern counties to over 20 inches in the far northeast few counties.

Statewide December average temperatures ranged from the upper 20s F in the southwest to the lower teens across the far northern counties (associated with the heavier snow cover). The southwest areas around the Black Hills were slightly above average for the month. The rest of the state was colder than average by as much as 4°-5° F. Much of the state saw days above 40° F during the month. Oelrichs, Porcupine and Winner reported the highest temperature for the month at 56° F. About half the stations reached double digits below 0° F during the month. Britton, Highmore and Mobridge recorded the lowest temperatures at -14° F.

Precipitation was heaviest in the far northeast where several storms dropped large snow totals. Much of this area received more than twice their average snowfall during the month. Areas of south central and northwest received much less precipitation; a few stations actually received less than half of average. Webster recorded the highest at 2.63 inches continuing their very wet trend for the fall; Philip had the lowest at 0.14 inch. The Webster and Sisseton data represent the wettest Decembers on record.

## SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures at the 4-inch depth were mostly in the 30s F. Redfield had the warmest at 36° F; Nisland had the lowest at 28° F. Five stations reported 32° F.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

Some producers in western South Dakota have been concerned about the lack of snow cover protection for the winter wheat. Winter wheat condition is rated 2 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 6 percent excellent, and snow cover is rated at 18 percent poor, 64 percent adequate, and 18 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 14 percent poor, 58 percent adequate and 28 percent excellent.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Feed supplies are rated at 98 percent adequate to surplus, up from last year's 92 percent. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 97 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, up 7 percentage point from last year. Livestock condition continues to remain mostly in the good to excellent range. Cattle are rated 87 percent in good to excellent condition, with fall newborn calf deaths rated 19 percent below average, 77 percent average, and 4 percent above average. Sheep are rated 89 percent in good to excellent condition, with newborn lamb deaths from fall crop rated 27 percent below average, 70 percent average, and 3 percent above average.

### Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of January 2, 2011

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Short	0	1	3	0	1	10
Short	2	7	10	3	9	15
Adequate	89	83	79	84	84	70
Surplus	9	9	8	13	6	5

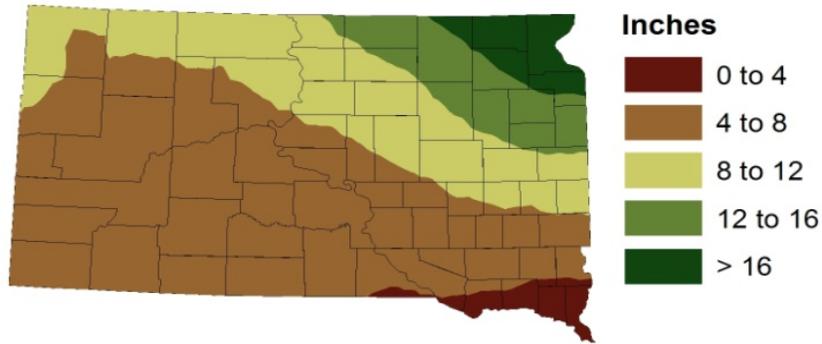
### Crop and Livestock Conditions as of January 2, 2011

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	0	2	34	58	6
Cattle	1	1	11	76	11
Sheep	1	1	9	68	21

### Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending January 2, 2011 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	30	Nisland	28
Beresford	33	Oacoma	32
Bowdle	32	Parkston	32
Brookings	32	Pierre	29
Caputa	30	Redfield	36
Cottonwood	29	South Shore	32

## SNOW DEPTH December 31, 2010



### TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month of December 2010

District and Station	Temperatures Past Week				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct. 1	Departure from Normal Since Oct. 1
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
<b>Northwest</b>							
Bison	17	-4	41	-9	0.54	1.67	-0.88
Buffalo	17	-4	40	-6	0.32	1.07	-1.09
Dupree	16	-4	43	-11	0.90	1.87	-0.61
McIntosh	12	-6	41	-13	1.06	1.93	-0.36
Newell	20	-2	48	-4	0.57	2.03	-0.30
Timber Lake	14	-5	41	-12	1.44	2.64	-0.17
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	13	-3	43	-10	1.77	2.91	0.15
Faulkton	14	-3	46	-9	0.75	2.20	-0.71
Mobridge	14	-5	44	-14	0.74	1.75	-1.52
Roscoe	13	-2	40	-10	1.09	2.87	0.03
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	11	-4	37	-14	1.33	2.96	0.17
Clear Lake	12	-3	36	-13	2.16	3.65	-0.23
Sisseton	12	-5	40	-12	2.32	4.77	1.36
Watertown	11	-3	37	-11	2.52	3.78	0.56
Webster	12	-3	37	-11	2.63	7.08	4.06
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	16	-5	42	-9	0.56	1.65	-1.26
Milesville	18	-4	45	-9	0.50	1.78	-0.97
Philip	20	-2	51	-10	0.14	1.33	-0.94
Rapid City	24	0	54	0	0.61	1.35	-1.04
Spearfish	30	2	53	-2	0.46	2.87	-0.92
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	18	-4	53	-10	0.36	1.04	-2.20
Highmore	15	-2	48	-14	0.44	0.85	-2.07
Huron	16	-2	51	-8	1.38	2.31	-0.56
Onida	16	-3	48	-11	0.54	1.75	-1.22
Pierre	18	-4	51	-9	1.96	3.10	0.28
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	13	-3	40	-10	1.62	3.00	-0.04
Forestburg	17	-2	52	-8	1.30	2.41	-0.95
Madison	15	-2	46	-10	1.30	2.34	-1.37
Mitchell	19	-2	53	-8	1.23	2.54	-0.73
Sioux Falls	16	-2	48	-7	1.54	2.92	-0.89
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	25	-1	48	-3	0.87	2.22	-0.44
Hot Springs	28	2	55	2	0.99	1.84	-0.81
Oelrichs	27	4	56	-4	0.19	0.92	-1.45
Porcupine	25	3	56	-5	0.90	3.30	0.89
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	20	-3	54	-11	0.80	1.61	-0.81
Mission	22	-2	53	-11	0.23	1.44	-1.31
Murdo	20	-2	51	-6	0.79	1.86	-1.01
Winner	23	-3	56	-6	0.17	0.72	-1.85
<b>Southeast</b>							
Academy	19	-2	54	-7	0.15	1.04	-2.18
Centerville	18	-2	51	-9	0.43	2.44	-1.27
Pickstown	23	-1	54	-6	0.68	1.92	-1.34
Vermillion	20	-3	50	-8	0.44	2.46	-1.50
Yankton	19	-3	54	-5	1.01	2.46	-1.15

DATA AND MAPS SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota