

# South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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

## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The month of February has kept farmers busy with the beginning of calving and lambing. Producers are also starting to consider their planting intentions. Average snow depth for the state is 13.2 inches. Farm activities included caring for livestock, hauling grain and hay to market, and moving snow from roads and feed supplies.

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

## WEATHER INFORMATION

Two major storm systems, one early and one late in the month produced heavy snowfalls statewide, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. These storms and some smaller events sandwiched a quiet mid-month with warm temperatures that helped to start the melting process and produced the first flooding of the spring mainly in western rivers. But improvement was short-lived as the late month storm covered many areas again and increased the snowpack to be melted.

Temperatures were well below average for the third month in a row. The coldest actual temperatures and coldest compared to average temperatures were in areas with the heaviest snow pack, generally the northeastern half of the state. Temperatures here were around 10°-15° F for the month and 5°-10° F below average. The more lightly snow-covered or clear areas had temperatures in the upper teens to lower 20s F, which were more commonly less than 5° F below average. The lack of snow cover also allowed the highest temperatures to occur in the middle of the month as Philip and Winner were the first to break 70° F for the year reaching 71° F. Cold daily temperatures still plagued the whole state with many locations still breaching -20° F. The coldest individual temperature was at Britton with -31° F.

Precipitation continued much above average for nearly the whole state. Except for a few stations, nearly all stations received over 1 inch of liquid for the month, much above average for the period. Most locations average a third to a half inch over February. Watertown continued to add to its record winter snowfall with another 2.44 inches of liquid for the month, the most in the state. Oelrichs received the least at 0.41 inch for the month. The snow pack continued to hold very strongly in the northeast part of the state. The southwest had melted off most of their cover before receiving a reinforcing shot in the late winter storm. Several other stations in the northeast were in the top 5-10 ever for snowfall totals.

## SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures at the 4 inch depth continued to hover near the freezing mark at all locations. The snow pack continued to insulate northern areas while warmer air overall kept southern areas near freezing. Eight stations reported soil temperatures at 32° F. Nisland had the coldest at 29° F.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

Snow cover protection for winter wheat and alfalfa has improved slightly since the month of January. Winter wheat condition is rated 2 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 5 percent excellent, and snow cover is rated at 3 percent poor, 65 percent adequate, and 32 percent excellent. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 2 percent poor, 68 percent adequate and 30 percent excellent.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Cold temperatures have increased the demand for feed and water supplies and may be a concern for calf producers who are beginning to calve. Feed supplies are rated at 93 percent adequate to surplus, up from last year's 85 percent. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 96 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, up 6 percentage point from last year. Livestock condition continues to remain mostly in the good to excellent range. Cattle are rated 82 percent in good to excellent condition, with calf deaths rated 13 percent below average, 82 percent average, and 5 percent above average. Calving is 11 percent complete. Sheep are rated 84 percent in good to excellent condition, with sheep and lamb deaths rated 3 percent below average, 95 percent average, and 2 percent above average. Lambing is 26 percent complete.

### Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending February 27, 2011 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	30	Nisland	29
Beresford	31	Oacoma	31
Bowdle	32	Parkston	32
Brookings	32	Pierre	32
Caputa	32	Redfield	32
Cottonwood	32	South Shore	32

### Crop and Livestock Conditions as of February 27, 2011

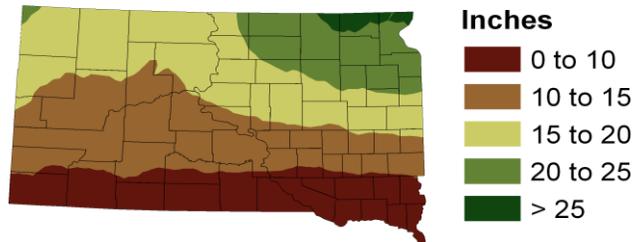
Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	0	2	49	44	5
Cattle	1	1	16	70	12
Sheep	1	2	13	77	7

### Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of February 27, 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	4	0	2	11
Short	7	14	11	4	8	14
Adequate	90	81	78	84	86	72
Surplus	3	4	7	12	4	3

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of March and will be released March 28, 2011

## SNOW DEPTH February 26, 2011



### TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending February 27, 2011,

District And Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct 1, 2010	Departure from Normal Since Oct 1, 2010
	<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	16	-7	56	-20	1.54	3.58	0.14
Buffalo	13	-10	53	-21	1.07	3.09	0.25
Dupree	14	-9	52	-21	1.61	4.60	1.32
McIntosh	15	-5	52	-24	0.80	3.42	0.34
Newell	20	-4	64	-22	0.69	3.82	0.69
Timber Lake	12	-9	48	-24	0.88	4.41	0.68
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	10	-8	46	-29	1.44	5.13	1.44
Faulton	12	-7	48	-18	1.02	3.62	-0.35
Mobridge	11	-10	51	-27	1.20	3.38	-0.63
Roscoe	10	-7	45	-22	1.54	5.32	1.44
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	10	-7	48	-31	1.03	6.40	2.49
Clear Lake	11	-5	46	-22	1.53	6.67	1.39
Sisseton	14	-4	54	-16	1.97	7.43	2.68
Watertown	10	-7	55	-29	2.44	6.98	2.74
Webster	10	-6	44	-26	1.72	9.35	5.04
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	14	-10	56	-20	1.35	3.56	-0.35
Milesville	18	-7	64	-21	1.97	4.02	0.33
Philip	18	-6	71	-18	0.52	1.99	-1.05
Rapid City	18	-9	67	-20	1.22	3.05	-0.15
Spearfish	26	-2	63	-15	1.60	5.27	0.24
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	20	-3	67	-16	1.20	3.58	-0.69
Highmore	12	-9	48	-19	1.20	2.45	-1.31
Huron	14	-7	47	-25	2.08	5.35	1.45
Onida	15	-5	50	-21	1.53	4.82	0.65
Pierre	15	-9	63	-17	1.80	5.66	1.80
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	12	-6	45	-26	1.60	5.37	1.61
Forestburg	15	-8	51	-19	1.70	5.03	0.63
Madison	13	-6	46	-23	1.66	3.70	-1.18
Mitchell	18	-4	56	-16	1.34	4.86	0.46
Sioux Falls	16	-4	50	-20	1.33	5.04	0.24
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	18	-10	52	-20	1.69	4.54	0.90
Hot Springs	23	-6	65	-28	0.94	3.13	0.20
Oelrichs	20	-6	66	-24	0.41	2.04	-1.22
Porcupine	20	-5	67	-20	1.65	5.80	2.54
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	18	-7	68	-18	1.16	3.53	0.38
Mission	19	-6	69	-15	1.61	4.10	0.59
Murdo	19	-6	68	-16	1.23	4.26	0.41
Winner	21	-8	71	-15	0.78	1.75	-2.02
<b>Southeast</b>							
Academy	18	-5	65	-15	0.88	2.66	-1.65
Centerville	18	-3	54	-16	0.73	4.16	-0.47
Pickstown	23	-2	66	-14	1.20	4.54	0.33
Vermillion	21	-4	55	-18	1.23	3.98	-0.81
Yankton	20	-3	61	-15	1.09	5.24	0.71