

# South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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Cooperating with:  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

## AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The month of March has kept farmers busy with flooding closing some roads and cold temperatures causing issues for livestock producers. Producers are also starting to prepare equipment and supplies for planting. Farm activities included caring for livestock, calving and lambing, hauling grain and hay to market.

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

## WEATHER INFORMATION

Warm temperatures in the middle of the month pushed the melting of snow finally across middle parts of the state causing flooding on many main rivers and overland flooding in parts of east central South Dakota, according to the State climate Office of South Dakota. Colder temperatures following late in the month slowed the melt and allowed some receding of water. Parts of the northeast still maintained a significant snow pack in areas of the James and Big Sioux River watersheds. Several locations across the state continued to experience winter weather adding to the overall snowpack.

Temperatures continued their colder than average trend for much of the month. Snow pack dissipated over much of the state along with the warming temperatures. But colder air masses continued to plague the state. Overall temperatures statewide were below average except for the Spearfish area. Southern areas ranged from 1° – 6° F below average. Northern areas with continued snow pack range to as much as 11° F below average. Some warm weather did occur in the middle of the month; Winner reported the high temperature for the month at 79° F. Below 0° F values still occurred on various occasions during the month. The coldest individual temperature was at Onida with -21° F.

Precipitation amounts varied compared to average. Much of the northeast and parts of the southwest were above average during the period. Most northern stations received over an inch for the month. Areas of the southeast were much below average. Clear Lake received the largest total for the month at 1.67". Winner reported the least at 0.15".

## SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures started to warm slightly despite the overall cold month. Most locations were at or above freezing at the 4 inch depth. Four stations were the coldest reporting soil temperatures at 32° F (Aberdeen, Beresford, Brookings and South Shore). Cottonwood and Oacoma had the warmest at 37° F.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

Much of the state's snow cover had disappeared until a late winter storm at the end of the month. Flooding due to spring thawing may delay the planting season this year. Winter wheat condition is rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Flooding and wet pastures are a concern for calf producers trying to find dry ground. Feed supplies are rated at 92 percent adequate to surplus, up from last year's 87 percent. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 98 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, up 4 percentage point from last year.

Livestock condition continues to remain mostly in the good to excellent range. Cattle are rated 74 percent in good to excellent condition, with calf deaths rated 7 percent below average, 89 percent average, and 4 percent above average. Calving is 29 percent complete compared to 38 percent a year ago. Sheep are rated 78 percent in good to excellent condition, with sheep and lamb deaths rated 6 percent below average, 87 percent average, and 7 percent above average. Lambing is 47 percent complete compared to 59 percent last year.

### Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of March 27, 2011

Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Very Short	0	NA	0	0	NA	1
Short	1	NA	1	6	NA	2
Adequate	57	NA	66	57	NA	81
Surplus	42	NA	33	37	NA	16

### Crop and Livestock Conditions as of March 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	1	4	28	59	8
Cattle	1	2	23	65	9
Sheep	2	3	17	68	10
Range & Pasture	2	6	33	52	7

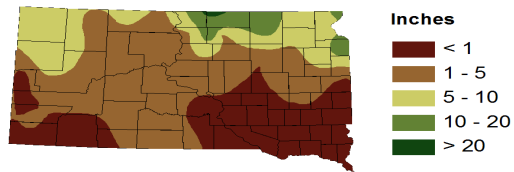
### Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending March 27, 2011 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	32	Nisland	35
Beresford	32	Oacoma	37
Bowdle	33	Parkston	33
Brookings	32	Pierre	35
Caputa	36	Redfield	35
Cottonwood	37	South Shore	32

### Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of March 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	1	2	4	0	2	9
Short	7	11	12	2	4	12
Adequate	88	84	80	78	75	69
Surplus	4	3	4	20	19	10

SNOW DEPTH  
March 26, 2011



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION  
Month Ending March 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	26	-6	58	-8	0.53	4.11	-0.36
Buffalo	25	-7	57	-10	0.41	3.50	-0.04
Dupree	22	-9	60	-10	1.22	5.82	1.56
McIntosh	20	-10	57	-10	0.17	3.45	-0.17
Newell	27	-5	66	-6	0.50	4.46	0.39
Timber Lake	23	-8	55	-10	1.06	5.47	0.71
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	19	-11	45	-16	0.98	6.11	1.25
Faulkton	20	-11	47	-10	0.90	4.90	1.05
Mobridge	20	-11	51	-10	1.29	5.09	0.14
Roscoe	18	-9	45	-10	1.45	6.77	2.01
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	20	-8	45	-19	1.20	7.70	2.80
Clear Lake	20	-7	48	-11	1.67	8.29	1.51
Sisseton	22	-7	51	-7	1.66	9.09	3.02
Watertown	20	-8	43	-14	1.63	8.61	3.26
Webster	20	-8	44	-9	1.50	10.85	5.61
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	24	-10	60	-8	1.07	5.23	0.30
Milesville	26	-8	63	-7	0.43	4.45	-0.30
Philip	27	-6	70	-11	0.25	4.31	0.37
Rapid City	30	-4	71	-8	0.71	3.76	-0.32
Spearfish	36	2	65	-2	0.52	5.79	-0.43
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	29	-5	74	-7	0.42	4.00	-1.59
Highmore	23	-9	54	-9	0.48	3.22	-1.79
Huron	24	-7	58	-12	1.19	6.54	1.22
Onida	23	-8	56	-21	0.62	5.63	0.07
Pierre	25	-8	66	-9	0.40	6.36	1.49
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	23	-6	52	-12	0.77	6.14	1.29
Forestburg	26	-8	63	-7	0.75	5.78	-0.04
Madison	25	-5	58	-11	1.02	5.20	-1.11
Mitchell	29	-4	69	-5	0.39	5.32	-0.49
Sioux Falls	29	-3	64	-2	0.47	5.51	-0.83
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	31	-2	58	6	0.92	5.46	0.85
Hot Springs	35	-1	70	1	0.82	3.95	0.24
Oelrichs	33	-2	72	-8	0.46	2.72	-1.37
Porcupine	32	-2	74	-7	0.81	6.61	2.51
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	28	-6	70	-12	0.43	3.96	-0.26
Mission	29	-4	71	-8	0.79	4.89	0.39
Murdo	28	-6	69	-7	0.53	4.79	-0.49
Winner	31	-7	79	-2	0.15	3.65	-0.27
<b>Southeast</b>							
Academy	28	-5	76	-6	0.30	2.96	-2.64
Centerville	31	-8	65	0	0.45	4.67	-0.41
Pickstown	32	-3	76	0	0.94	5.48	-0.09
Vermillion	35	-1	69	3	0.48	4.56	-1.76
Yankton	32	-2	72	3	0.83	6.43	0.37