AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The first week of April brought little relief to farmers dealing with flooding and cool temperatures. Small grain planting is delayed in many areas as a result of wet soils, cool temperatures and in Northeast South Dakota, snow cover. Only .8 days was suitable for fieldwork. Producers continue to prepare equipment and supplies for planting. Farm activities included caring for livestock, calving and lambing, and hauling grain 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

A couple storms during the week brought generally light precipitation across most of the state, according to the State climate Office of South Dakota. Additional snow did accompany the events. Nearly all locations in the state received snow, though usually less than a couple inches. Hoover and Timber Lake did receive over 7” of snow for the week. Total precipitation at most locations was mostly less than half an inch, which was below average for the week. Murdo reported the most for the week at 0.72”; Webster reported the low with only a trace.

Warmer temperatures started to return over the state during the latter part of the week. These temperatures re-started the melting of the remaining snow and warmed soil temperatures over all but the snow covered areas. The first 80°F temperatures of the year occurred in the southwest part of the state. Porcupine reported the highest at 81°F. Many other stations across southern parts of the state reached the 60’s and 70’s F. The remaining snow cover and the additional new snow dropped temperatures into the teens and single digits. Sisseton reported the lowest temperature at 7°F.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures at the 4 inch depth continue to improve slowly. Southern and western locations have reached the 40’s F while the northeast remains in the low 30’s F. Cottonwood had the warmest soil temperature at 45°F; South Shore and Brookings remained the lowest at 32°F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

High levels of moisture in the soil are contributing to the delay of planting this year with spring wheat planting estimated at only one percent for the state. Spring planting of barley and oats has not begun in South Dakota for the 2011 planting season. Cool temperatures have also delayed the percent of winter wheat breaking dormancy. Percent of winter wheat that has broken dormancy is estimated at 29 percent, well behind last year’s 79 percent. Winter wheat condition is rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Flooding and wet pastures are still a concern for calf producers trying to find dry ground. This year’s long winter has been hard on some of the older cows. Below normal temperatures have delayed the growth of pastures as well. Feed supplies are rated at 92 percent adequate to surplus, up slightly from last year’s 91 percent. Stock water supplies are also in good shape with 99 percent in the adequate to surplus categories, up only 1 percentage point from last year.

Livestock condition continues to remain mostly in the good to excellent range. Cattle are rated 80 percent in good to excellent condition, 16 percent fair, and 4 percent in the poor to very poor range. Calving is 37 percent complete compared to 43 percent a year ago and 3 percent of cattle have been moved to pasture. Sheep are rated 81 percent in good to excellent condition, 15 percent fair, and 4 percent in the poor to very poor range. Lambing is 52 percent complete compared to 65 percent last year.

Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of April 3, 2011

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of April 3, 2011

Crop Progress as of April 3, 2011

Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of April 3, 2011

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending April 3, 2011 (4-inch Depth)

To access this and other South Dakota Internet reports, go to www.nass.usda.gov/sd
PAST 30 DAYS  
Accumulated Precip Deviation from Average  
From March 5 to April 3, 2011

GROWING SEASON  
Accumulated Precip Deviation from Average  
From April 1 to April 3, 2011

<table>
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<th>District And Station</th>
<th>Temperatures Past Week</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
<th>Growing Degree Days</th>
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Northeast  
Brion  
Clear Lake  
Sissetton  
Wazatwn  
Webster  
West Central  
Faith  
Millsdlev  
Philip  
Rapid City  
Spearfish  
Central  
Chamberlain  
Highmore  
Huron  
Onda  
Pierre  
East Central  
Brookings  
Forsburg  
Madson  
Mitchell  
Sisset Falls  
Southwest  
Custer  
Hot Springs  
Oelrichs  
Pocapic  
South Central  
Kennebec  
Mission  
Mount  
Winner  
Southeast  
Academy  
Centerville  
Pickstown  
Vermillion  
Yankton  

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota