

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

Released: January 3, 2012 -- 3:00 p.m. CST
For Month of December 2011
SD-CW6052 Volume 60 Issue 52



National Agricultural Statistics Service
South Dakota Field Office
P.O. Box 5068
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5068
Cooperating with:
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The month of December was unusually mild with only minor snowfall amounts scattered across the state. Winter wheat and alfalfa could still use snow cover. There was a slight concern across the state as to the impact the warm temperatures will have on the winter wheat and alfalfa. The feed supplies were plentiful due to the extended grazing season, and livestock were doing well in most areas of the state. Major activities last month included; caring for livestock, moving hay to winter storage, burning slews and over grown areas, cleaning up from the fall harvest and repairing equipment.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

Conditions across South Dakota in December were in strong contrast to the last several Decembers. Largely warm and dry conditions pervaded the state for the whole month, setting many daily and close to some monthly records statewide.

Temperatures were well above average over the state for most of the latter part of the month. The only cold period was in the first week to 10 days of the month, when most of the state experienced below 0° F lows for a few days. Several locations did not fall below 0° F at any time during the month. Highs reached the upper 50's and low 60's late in the month setting many record daily highs. Pickstown had the high for the month at 65° F; Custer had the low at -12° F. Madison and Sisseton had the top 5 warmest Decembers with another eight stations in the top ten.

Precipitation was generally light continuing the fall pattern of dry conditions. Since October 1 only the central and southwest areas were near or above average. Most stations were at least 1 inch below average in that time. During December several snows fell in parts of the state, but the overall warm temperatures kept the snow cover from persisting. The only snow cover at the end of the month was in the northern Black Hills. Most locations were below average in precipitation in December except for a few stations scattered statewide. Spearfish had the highest total for the month at 1.43 inches; Dupree had the low with only a trace. Dupree, Wessington Springs, Oelrichs and Murdo reported a top ten driest Decembers.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures were near or above freezing due to warm air temperatures and dry soil conditions. Cottonwood and Nisland had the low 4-inch soil temperature at 31° F. Oacoma was the warmest at 36° F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Producers across the state were concerned about the lack of snow cover for the winter wheat and alfalfa. Mild temperatures were also a concern for the winter wheat. Winter wheat condition was rated at 1 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 47 percent fair, and 41 percent in the good to excellent range. Snow cover for winter wheat was rated at 95 percent poor with the remaining 5 percent adequate. Alfalfa snow cover was rated at 96 percent poor and 4 percent adequate.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock were thriving with calving and lambing conditions ideal with the mild temperatures. Cattle were rated 95 percent in good to excellent condition; with calf deaths rated at 74 percent average and 26 percent below average. Sheep were rated 97 percent in good to excellent condition; with lamb deaths rated at 85 percent average and 15 percent below average. Stock water supplies were 92 percent adequate to surplus and feed supplies were 99 percent adequate to surplus, both ahead of the 5-year averages of 80 and 89 percent, respectively.

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending January 1, 2012 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	34	Nisland	31
Beresford	35	Oacoma	36
Bowdle	34	Parkston	35
Brookings	35	Pierre	34
Caputa	32	Redfield	32
Cottonwood	31	South Shore	34

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of January 1, 2012

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	11	47	38	3
Cattle	0	0	5	82	13
Sheep	0	0	3	74	23

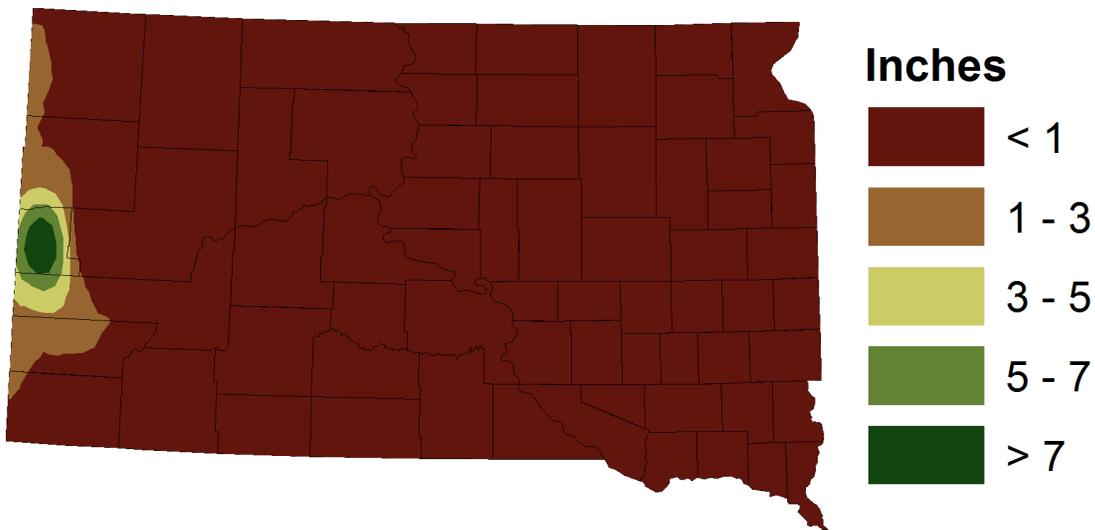
Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of January 1, 2012

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	0	2	1	0	7
Short	1	2	9	7	3	13
Adequate	88	89	80	88	84	73
Surplus	11	9	9	4	13	7

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of January and will be released January 30, 2012.

SNOW DEPTH

December 31, 2011



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending December 31, 2011

District and Station	Temperatures Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Total		Departure from Normal
					Current Month	Since Oct. 1	Since Oct. 1
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Northwest							
Bison	28	7	59	0	0.46	1.59	-0.94
Buffalo	27	6	60	-4	0.26	1.06	-0.24
Dupree	29	9	59	-1	0.00	0.83	-1.22
McIntosh	26	8	58	-4	0.15	1.13	-1.16
Newell	28	6	62	-4	0.28	1.27	-1.06
Timber Lake	26	7	57	-6	0.23	1.17	-1.64
North Central							
Aberdeen	24	8	57	-10	0.33	1.16	-1.60
Faulkton	27	9	56	-10	0.11	1.25	-1.66
Mobridge	26	8	60	-5	0.21	2.04	-0.38
Roscoe	24	9	53	-7	0.41	1.17	-1.67
Northeast							
Britton	25	10	52	-5	0.01	1.16	-1.63
Clear Lake	24	10	50	-4	0.24	1.25	-2.63
Sisseton	27	10	52	1	0.21	0.99	-2.42
Watertown	25	10	51	-6	0.23	0.81	-2.41
Webster	25	10	49	-1	0.29	0.87	-2.15
West Central							
Faith	28	6	62	-2	0.22	0.88	-1.76
Milesville	29	7	61	-3	0.27	1.42	-1.33
Philip	29	7	60	-9	0.12	0.84	-1.43
Rapid City	28	3	61	-4	0.29	2.38	-0.01
Spearfish	32	5	64	1	1.43	2.65	-1.14
Central							
Chamberlain	30	8	59	1	0.10	2.91	-1.06
Highmore	26	7	54	-8	0.08	1.78	-1.02
Huron	27	8	60	-2	0.24	2.10	-0.77
Onida	26	8	56	-7	0.19	4.22	1.25
Pierre	28	6	57	-4	0.09	2.02	-0.80
Wessington Spr.	28	7	55	-4	0.01	1.19	-2.12
East Central							
Brookings	25	9	54	-5	0.22	0.86	-2.18
Madison	25	9	55	-6	0.34	1.14	-2.61
Mitchell	29	8	61	0	0.26	1.50	-2.20
Sioux Falls	27	9	54	-3	0.62	1.29	-2.52
Southwest							
Custer	26	3	55	-12	0.53	1.87	-0.59
Hot Springs	30	4	59	-10	0.43	1.68	-0.46
Oelrichs	27	3	54	-7	0.03	1.30	-1.07
Porcupine	25	4	59	-3	0.49	2.27	-0.14
South Central							
Kennebec	28	6	61	-8	0.07	1.92	-0.50
Mission	28	4	62	-1	0.22	1.94	-0.81
Murdo	29	7	59	-1	0.03	1.20	-1.67
Winner	31	6	63	2	0.11	2.25	-1.16
Southeast							
Academy	28	7	61	-3	0.18	2.02	-1.20
Centerville	26	6	55	-10	0.42	1.31	-2.40
Pickstown	31	8	65	4	0.16	1.24	-2.02
Vermillion	29	7	58	-10	0.41	1.15	-2.81
Yankton	29	7	59	-6	0.49	2.58	-1.03

DATA AND MAPS SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota