

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 January saw the first significant snow fall for much of the state, improving snow cover conditions for the alfalfa and winter wheat. Livestock are still thriving across the state with low death rates, and plentiful feed supplies. Major activities this week included; caring for livestock, moving hay and getting ready for spring.

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

WEATHER INFORMATION

Warm conditions continued across the state for much of the month, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. By mid-month some colder air did cross the state. Statewide conditions remained relatively mild. Several small precipitation events did occur bringing slightly above average precipitation for the month. Overall conditions remain dry over most of the state.

Temperatures continued well above average early in the month with several stations reaching over 70° F. Several stations set all time station record high temperatures for January. Toward the middle of the month below 0° F temperatures crossed the state before turning relatively mild toward the end of the month. Average temperatures were mostly in the 20's F statewide, being mostly 5-10° F above average. Philip and Pickstown had the high for the month at 74° F; Britton had the low at -17° F.

Precipitation was more extensive than the previous couple months with nearly all locations receiving at least a few tenths of an inch. Most places were close to if not somewhat above average. These totals are not sufficient to make major changes to the precipitation deficits since October 1. Vermillion had the highest total for the month at 1.13 inches; McIntosh had the low with 0.15 of an inch. With most of the precipitation falling as snow on frozen ground, little soil moisture regeneration can occur. Most of the eastern part of the state has a few inches of snow cover, while the west is generally snow-free.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures were near or a couple degrees below freezing due to warmer temperatures and a general lack of snow cover. Aberdeen and South Shore had the low 4 inch soil temperature at 29° F. Beresford and Parkston were the warmest at 32° F.

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending January 29, 2012 (4-inch Depth)

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

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Snow cover ratings improved slightly with the arrival of minimal snow cover in January, with the average snow depth for the state at 1.6 inches. Winter wheat condition is rated at 1 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 45 percent fair, and 25 percent in the good to excellent range. Snow cover for winter wheat is rated at 87 percent poor with the remaining 13 percent adequate, compared to last month rated at 95 percent poor and 5 percent adequate. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 83 percent poor and 17 percent adequate, compared to last month's ratings of 96 percent poor and 4 percent adequate.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Conditions remain very favorable for livestock, with no major health issues. The long grazing season is ending in some areas of the state due to the cold snap mid-month. Cattle are rated 94 percent in good to excellent condition. Cattle deaths rated at 2 percent above average, 62 percent average and 36 percent below average for the month and newborn calf deaths rated at 4 percent above average, 63 percent average and 33 percent below average for January. Sheep are rated 96 percent in good to excellent condition; with sheep and lamb deaths rated at 1 percent above average, 66 percent average and 33 percent below average. Stock water supplies are 93 percent adequate to surplus and feed supplies are 99 percent adequate to surplus, both ahead of the 5-year averages of 81 and 87 percent, respectively.

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of January 29, 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	29	45	24	1
Cattle	0	0	6	80	14
Sheep	0	0	4	70	26

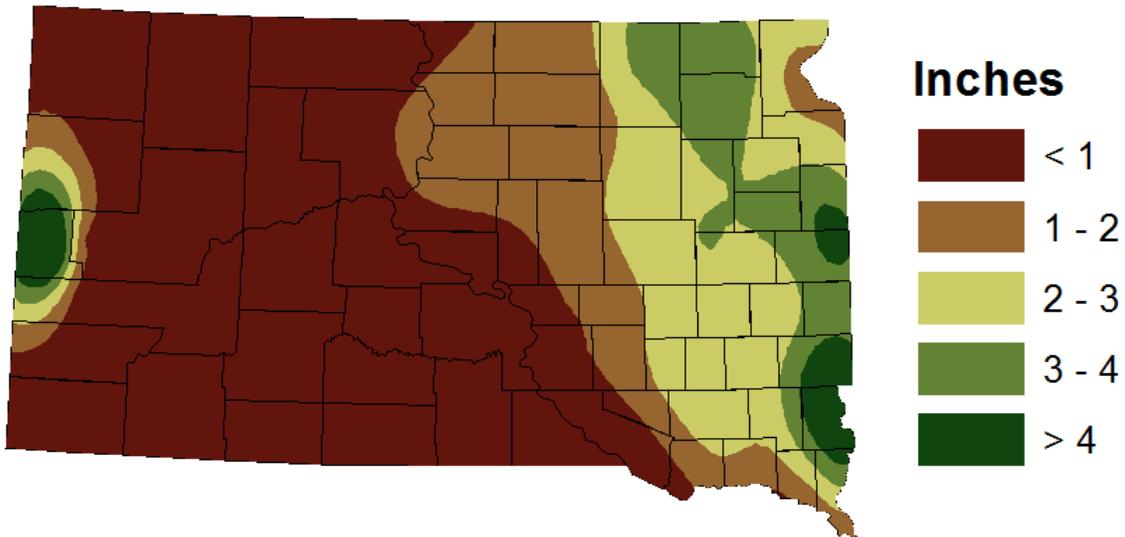
Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of January 29, 2012

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	4	0	0	8
Short	1	3	9	7	2	11
Adequate	92	93	81	92	89	75
Surplus	7	4	6	1	9	6

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of February and will be released February 27, 2012

SNOW DEPTH

January 29, 2012



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending January 31, 2012

District And Station	Temperatures Past Month				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>
Northwest							
Bison	25	8	58	-12	0.27	1.86	-1.09
Buffalo	25	8	57	-10	0.40	1.46	-0.13
Dupree	26	10	63	-11	0.40	1.87	-0.91
McIntosh	22	9	58	-13	0.15	1.61	-1.06
Newell	26	7	62	-9	0.41	1.28	-1.33
Timber Lake	24	9	58	-10	0.35	1.52	-1.66
North Central							
Aberdeen	20	10	63	-13	0.71	1.87	-1.35
Faulkton	22	10	65	-9	0.43	1.82	-1.56
Mobridge	22	6	58	-9	0.37	2.41	-0.28
Roscoe	21	11	59	-10	0.45	1.62	-1.65
Northeast							
Britton	21	11	56	-17	0.39	1.78	-1.60
Clear Lake	20	10	57	-15	0.46	1.71	-2.91
Sisseton	22	11	58	-14	0.46	1.45	-2.65
Watertown	19	10	57	-14	0.39	1.20	-2.56
Webster	20	10	54	-14	0.37	1.24	-2.49
West Central							
Faith	25	5	59	-9	0.55	1.43	-1.40
Milesville	27	8	68	-13	0.35	1.77	-1.35
Philip	27	9	74	-14	0.28	1.05	-1.52
Rapid City	29	7	73	-7	0.31	2.69	-0.03
Spearfish	32	7	67	-7	0.69	3.01	-1.32
Central							
Chamberlain	26	5	68	-5	0.76	3.67	-0.79
Highmore	22	5	64	-8	0.22	2.00	-1.15
Huron	23	9	65	-9	0.73	2.83	-0.51
Onida	23	8	65	-9	0.25	4.87	-1.10
Pierre	25	8	66	-8	0.59	2.61	-0.71
Wessington Spr.	23	7	67	-8	0.43	1.62	-2.15
East Central							
Brookings	21	9	61	-12	0.30	1.34	-2.32
Madison	21	9	60	-14	0.34	1.48	-2.75
Mitchell	25	6	70	-5	0.71	2.21	-1.88
Sioux Falls	23	9	62	-10	0.75	2.04	-2.25
Southwest							
Custer	26	2	60	-6	0.20	2.07	-0.70
Hot Springs	31	7	62	-4	0.24	1.92	-0.54
Oelrichs	28	7	62	-5	0.45	1.84	-0.91
Porcupine	25	6	67	-14	0.28	2.55	-0.22
South Central							
Kennebec	26	7	70	-13	0.52	2.44	-0.29
Mission	27	7	67	-9	0.43	2.37	-0.69
Murdo	28	9	69	-6	0.38	1.58	-1.73
Winner	30	7	70	-4	0.22	2.47	-1.44
Southeast							
Academy	27	8	60	-7	0.35	2.37	-1.30
Centerville	24	7	67	-6	0.48	1.90	-2.22
Pickstown	28	9	74	-3	0.28	1.52	-2.15
Vermillion	27	8	67	-6	1.13	2.28	-2.03
Yankton	26	8	68	-6	0.69	3.27	-0.75