

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

South Dakota saw its first snow storm of the season the last full week of February, leaving an average snow depth of 2.3 inches for the state. Most areas of the state are still enjoying an open winter making it easy on the livestock but the recent moisture was gladly welcomed. Major activities last month included; caring for livestock, starting of calving and lambing, purchasing fertilizer and chemical, and preparing 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

Most of the month continued the winter trend of warmer than average conditions. The precipitation pattern did become more active with a few precipitation events crossing the state dropping isolated heavier amount of precipitation, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota.

Statewide temperatures continued above average overall with the warmest areas compared to average in the northeast. Statewide temperatures were in the 20's F. A few stations around the Black Hills were a few degrees below average. Areas of the northeast were 6-7° F above average. Oelrichs had the highest daily high at 58° F; Philip had the lowest temperature at -15° F.

A mid-month storm dropped heavier snowfalls from north central to southeast parts of the state. Thus, these areas were above average for the month. Areas of the northeast and much of the west were below average missing most of the events. Several locations received more than an inch of precipitation for the month. The highest total was at Wessington Springs at 1.21 inches. The dry areas of the northwest and northeast had the lowest precipitation totals, the lowest total being 0.12 of an inch at Newell. Snow cover did exist over parts of the state left over from recent snow events. The US Drought Monitor did increase coverage of D1 (Moderate Drought) and D2 (Severe Drought) in the eastern third of the state.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures inched up to close to or slightly above freezing everywhere in the state. Aberdeen had the low 4 inch soil temperature at 29° F; Oacoma was the warmest at 33° F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

With the arrival of the first snow storm of the season, snow cover conditions improved but some still worry about the quality and survival rate of the alfalfa and winter wheat for the state. Winter wheat condition is rated at 31 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 29 percent in the good to excellent range. Snow cover for winter wheat is rated at 71 percent poor with the remaining 29 percent adequate, compared to last month rated at 87 percent poor and 13 percent adequate. Alfalfa snow cover is rated at 71 percent poor, 28 percent adequate, and 1 percent excellent, compared to last month's ratings of 83 percent poor and 17 percent adequate.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

As some areas of the state started calving and lambing in February, conditions could not be much better with mild temperatures and minimal snow coverage. Feed and water supplies are mostly adequate due to the open winter allowing livestock to be pastured most of the season. Cattle are rated 93 percent in good to excellent condition. Cattle deaths are rated at 1 percent above average, 63 percent average and 36 percent below average for the month and newborn calf deaths are rated at 4 percent above average, 70 percent average and 26 percent below average for February. Calving was at 9 percent complete as of February 26th. Sheep are rated 95 percent in good to excellent condition; with sheep and lamb deaths rated at 78 percent average and 22 percent below average. Lambing was at 22 percent complete as of February 26th. Stock water supplies are 95 percent adequate to surplus and feed supplies are 99 percent adequate to surplus, both ahead of the 5-year averages of 81 and 85 percent, respectively. Feed and water supplies accessibility both rate at 98 percent readily available.

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending February 26, 2012 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	29	Nisland	31
Beresford	32	Oacoma	33
Bowdle	32	Parkston	32
Brookings	32	Pierre	32
Caputa	32	Redfield	31
Cottonwood	32	South Shore	30

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of February 26, 2012

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter Wheat	0	31	40	28	1
Cattle	0	0	7	78	15
Sheep	0	0	5	71	24

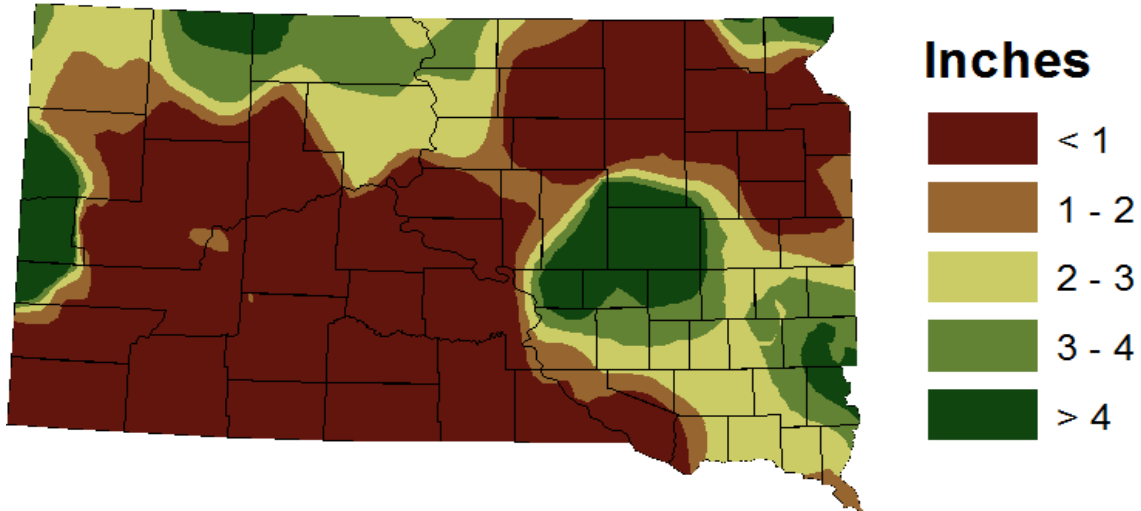
Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of February 26, 2012

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Very Short	0	0	4	1	0	7
Short	1	7	11	4	4	12
Adequate	93	90	80	93	84	76
Surplus	6	3	5	2	12	5

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of March and will be released March 26, 2012

SNOW DEPTH

February 26, 2012



TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION Month Ending February 26, 2012,

District And Station	Temperature Past Month				Precipitation		
	Average	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Total Since Oct 1, 2011	Departure from Normal Since Oct 1, 2011
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Northwest							
Bison	27	4	49	-8	0.39	2.25	-1.69
Buffalo	26	2	50	-12	0.23	1.69	-0.25
Dupree	26	4	48	-11	0.40	2.27	-1.41
McIntosh	25	5	50	-10	0.47	1.75	-1.70
Newell	27	2	50	-8	0.12	1.73	-1.38
Timber Lake	25	3	49	-13	0.66	2.19	-1.51
North Central							
Aberdeen	24	6	50	-10	0.37	2.23	-1.43
Faulkton	25	6	50	-9	0.24	2.06	-1.85
Mobridge	23	2	50	-14	0.59	2.72	-0.90
Roscoe	23	6	48	-8	0.21	1.83	-2.02
Northeast							
Britton	23	6	47	-10	0.30	2.08	-2.32
Clear Lake	23	7	49	-8	0.32	2.04	-3.21
Sisseton	24	6	50	-8	0.24	1.73	-2.99
Watertown	23	7	46	-9	0.27	1.47	-2.75
Webster	23	7	48	-9	0.32	1.56	-2.73
West Central							
Faith	27	4	50	-7	0.52	1.32	-2.24
Milesville	28	3	52	-12	0.38	2.15	-1.51
Philip	28	3	53	-15	0.39	1.44	-1.58
Rapid City	27	0	56	-8	0.27	2.96	-0.22
Spearfish	29	1	48	-1	1.04	3.95	-1.42
Central							
Chamberlain	29	6	54	-7	0.72	4.28	-0.09
Highmore	24	3	49	-10	0.80	2.93	-1.37
Huron	26	5	53	-8	0.95	3.78	-0.09
Onida	25	4	50	-9	1.03	4.75	0.61
Pierre	27	3	52	-8	0.57	3.18	-0.66
Wessington Spr.	26	4	52	-8	1.21	2.83	-1.45
East Central							
Brookings	24	7	48	-8	0.29	1.66	-2.08
Madison	25	6	49	-7	0.66	2.13	-2.72
Mitchell	29	6	55	-5	1.01	3.22	-1.48
Sioux Falls	27	6	50	-5	0.95	2.99	-1.78
Southwest							
Custer	23	-4	47	-12	0.17	3.61	-1.34
Hot Springs	30	1	56	-6	0.36	2.29	-0.62
Oelrichs	28	2	58	-13	0.44	2.53	-0.71
Porcupine	27	2	54	-13	0.28	2.84	-0.40
South Central							
Kennebec	28	3	53	-12	0.67	3.11	-0.02
Mission	28	3	54	-10	0.37	2.74	-0.75
Murdo	29	4	54	-3	0.44	2.03	-1.79
Winner	30	4	55	-7	0.21	2.68	-1.83
Southeast							
Academy	27	4	54	-7	0.59	2.96	-1.32
Centerville	27	5	54	-5	0.70	2.74	-2.14
Pickstown	29	4	57	-5	0.44	2.05	-2.13
Vermillion	30	4	52	-4	0.92	3.20	-1.56

Yankton	28	4	54	-4	1.10	4.37	-0.13
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DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota