

South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Early spring like weather helped farmers get into the fields to prepare for the upcoming planting season, with some farmers starting planting of small grains in some areas of the state. Precipitation is still desired across the state; as some areas are starting to become dry with the wind and warm temperatures. Major activities last month included; planting of small grains, preparing equipment and fields for the planting of row crops, applying fertilizers and chemicals, caring for livestock, calving and lambing.

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 the state were dominated by very warm conditions throughout the month feeling more like early summer than early spring. Warm temperatures with strong winds and overall dry conditions were commonplace throughout the month, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota.

Statewide temperatures continued well above average overall. Statewide average temperatures were in the 40°'s F (with Vermillion at 52° F). These conditions were very much above average with nearly all stations being 10-17° F above average for the month. Pickstown, Pierre, Mitchell, Huron and Chamberlain had the highest daily high at 88° F; Sisseton had the lowest temperature at -2° F. Vermillion tied the state record highest minimum temperature for March only falling to 65° F on March 19th.

Precipitation was limited over most of the state. The heaviest amounts for the month were in the southeast with lower amounts elsewhere. Winner had the peak precipitation for the month at 1.08 inch; Custer, Oelrichs and Newell had the low with no recorded precipitation. Some improvement in drought conditions did occur in the southeast with the additional precipitation. Conditions worsened in parts of the west leading to a D1 introduction on the US Drought Monitor north and east of the Black Hills because of longer term dryness and the current warm dry conditions.

SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures warmed rapidly with the warm conditions and relatively dry soils. Bowdle had the low 4 inch soil temperature at 40° F; Nisland was the warmest at 55° F.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

With record breaking warm temperatures, some farmers are busy planting small grains, with anticipation to start planting corn. Moisture is still needed in most areas of the state to help with the progress and condition of the winter wheat, alfalfa and pastures. Winter wheat condition is rated at 3 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 32 percent fair, and 49 percent in good to excellent condition; compared to only 29 percent in good to excellent condition last month.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

The calving and lambing seasons are under way, with minimal complications due to excellent weather conditions across the state. Cattle are rated 94 percent in good to excellent condition. Cattle deaths are rated at 1 percent above average, 57 percent average and 42 percent below average for the month and newborn calf deaths are rated at 1 percent above average, 63 percent average and 36 percent below average for March. Calving was at 35 percent complete as of March 25th. Cattle moved to pasture is rated at 3 percent complete. Sheep are rated 96 percent in good to excellent condition; with sheep and lamb deaths rated at 61 percent average and 39 percent below average. Lambing was at 40 percent complete as of March 25th. 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 84 percent, for both. Feed and water supplies accessibility rate is at 100 percent readily available and 98 percent readily available, respectively. Range and pasture conditions are rated 50 percent good to excellent, 41 percent fair and 9 percent poor to very poor.

Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of March 25, 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	1	3	0	0	7
Short	1	7	13	7	2	9
Adequate	89	88	80	91	78	71
Surplus	10	4	4	2	20	13

Soil Moisture Condition Comparison as of March 25, 2012

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	7	NA	0	4	NA	0
Short	43	NA	1	40	NA	6
Adequate	48	NA	57	55	NA	57
Surplus	2	NA	42	1	NA	37

Crop and Livestock Conditions as of March 25, 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	3	16	32	41	8
Cattle	0	0	6	75	19
Sheep	0	0	4	63	33
Range & Pasture	1	8	41	43	7

Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending March 25, 2012 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	48	Nisland	55
Beresford	50	Oacoma	44
Bowdle	40	Parkston	50
Brookings	51	Pierre	51
Caputa	45	Redfield	49
Cottonwood	51	South Shore	49

TEMPERATURE and PRECIPITATION
Month Ending March 25, 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	44	13	80	9	0.13	2.80	-1.59
Buffalo	45	13	80	12	0.02	2.34	-1.80
Dupree	44	13	82	11	0.10	2.48	-1.73
McIntosh	43	13	83	9	0.11	1.99	-1.73
Newell	44	12	82	17	0.00	1.93	-1.94
Timber Lake	46	15	82	10	0.14	2.56	-2.13
North Central							
Aberdeen	42	13	85	6	0.34	3.07	-1.72
Faulkton	43	13	86	11	0.19	2.65	-2.48
Mobridge	43	14	83	8	0.09	3.20	-1.90
Roscoe	42	15	83	11	0.04	2.39	-2.32
Northeast							
Britton	41	12	81	7	0.37	3.11	-1.63
Clear Lake	41	15	81	7	0.75	3.93	-2.80
Sisseton	43	14	83	-2	0.45	3.28	-2.70
Watertown	42	15	82	2	0.60	2.58	-2.70
Webster	43	15	81	9	0.33	2.67	-2.52
West Central							
Faith	45	14	81	11	0.11	2.00	-2.90
Milesville	48	14	86	13	0.08	2.43	-2.25
Philip	45	13	87	14	0.03	1.59	-2.40
Rapid City	46	12	82	13	0.04	3.11	-0.91
Spearfish	46	12	78	21	0.11	3.84	-2.80
Central							
Chamberlain	49	14	88	14	0.52	5.88	0.46
Highmore	43	13	84	6	0.08	3.60	-1.20
Huron	46	15	88	12	0.80	5.69	0.46
Onida	43	13	86	10	0.05	6.11	0.80
Pierre	46	13	88	14	0.09	3.90	-0.89
Wessington Spr.	46	13	86	13	0.92	5.04	-0.79
East Central							
Brookings	44	15	82	1	0.35	3.42	-2.60
Madison	45	16	84	7	0.20	3.82	-2.38
Mitchell	49	15	88	18	0.32	5.54	0.10
Sioux Falls	48	17	85	15	0.75	5.22	-1.01
Southwest							
Custer	41	8	68	14	0.00	2.58	-1.94
Hot Springs	47	11	80	13	0.01	2.55	-1.10
Oelrichs	46	11	81	17	0.00	2.54	-1.49
Porcupine	45	12	83	12	0.03	3.21	-0.83
South Central							
Kennebec	48	14	87	7	0.10	4.28	0.13
Mission	45	12	83	10	0.10	3.92	-0.51
Murdo	48	14	86	15	0.13	2.68	-2.51
Winner	47	10	87	11	1.08	4.17	-1.74
Southeast							
Academy	47	15	87	14	1.03	5.21	-0.30
Centerville	46	16	83	14	0.43	4.11	-1.82
Pickstown	49	15	88	17	0.39	3.61	-1.85
Vermillion	52	16	85	21	0.34	4.33	-1.88
Yankton	48	15	86	20	0.61	6.02	0.06

DATA AND MAP SOURCE: State Climate Office of South Dakota