

# South Dakota Weekly Crop Weather Report

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For the Month of December 2012  
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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 mostly normal for temperatures with an average snow depth at the end of the month of 4.0 inches across the state. As the winter season progresses, producers continue to cope with drought reduced feed supplies and stock water supplies. Livestock were doing well in most areas of the state. County road conditions in the state were rated at 98 percent open and 2 percent difficult. Township road conditions were rated at 93 percent open, 6 percent difficult and 1 percent closed. Major activities last month included moving snow, caring for livestock, moving hay to winter storage, hauling grain 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

December presented some early winter snowfall and hazards across much of the state, according to the State Climate Office of South Dakota. An early December blizzard (Dec. 7-9) and several subsequent smaller snows have created snow cover statewide. More limited snow cover was across much of south central South Dakota where 2 inches or less exist. The heavier amounts are in east central South Dakota where 8-10 inches and more are on the ground due to several snow events.

The precipitation is welcomed, though not a major improvement for drought conditions. The overall water amount in the snow is small compared to the longer term deficits. Most of the precipitation in December fell as snow and will have only limited impact on dry soils. The far southeast did receive rain on the 15-16<sup>th</sup> helping soil moisture as the rain fell on unfrozen ground.

The peak precipitation for the month was at Clear Lake where a total of 1.51 inches of precipitation fell (melted snow and rain). The least precipitation was at Oelrichs in far southwest South Dakota with 0.16 inches. Nearly 2/3 of the state is still in extreme or exceptional drought on the US Drought Monitor map.

Despite the snow cover over most of the state, temperatures were close to average over much of the state and several degrees above average across the south (where snow cover was less).

Average temperatures ranged from the upper teens in the north to upper 20's south and west. The high temperature for the month was 72° F in Chamberlain on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The coldest was -17° F in Aberdeen on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

## SOIL CONDITION

Soil temperatures were in the 20's. Oacoma was the warmest at 28° F; Cottonwood was the coolest at 21° F.

## FIELD CROPS REPORT

Some producers have been concerned about the lack of snow cover protection for the winter wheat. Winter wheat condition was rated at 21 percent very poor, 49 percent poor, 27 percent fair, and 3 percent good. Snow cover for winter wheat was rated at 61 percent poor with the remaining 39 percent adequate. Alfalfa snow cover was rated at 37 percent poor, 61 percent adequate and 2 percent excellent.

## LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT

Feed supplies were rated at 23 percent very short, 32 percent short and 45 percent adequate to surplus, while last year at this time feed supplies were rated at 99 percent adequate to surplus. Stock water supplies were rated at 31 percent very short, 36 percent short, 33 percent adequate. Cattle conditions were rated at 73 percent good to excellent, 25 percent fair and 2 percent poor, with fall newborn calf deaths rated 12 percent below average and 88 percent average. Sheep conditions were rated at 81 percent good to excellent condition, 17 percent fair and 2 percent poor, with sheep and lamb deaths rated 3 percent below average and 97 percent average.

### Average Soil Temperatures Week Ending December 30, 2012 (4-inch Depth)

Location	Temp	Location	Temp
Aberdeen	25	Nisland	23
Beresford	27	Oacoma	28
Bowdle	26	Parkston	25
Brookings	26	Pierre	24
Caputa	26	Redfield	26
Cottonwood	21	South Shore	26

### Crop and Livestock Conditions as of December 30, 2012

Item	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter Wheat	21	49	27	3	0
Cattle	0	2	25	66	7
Sheep	0	2	17	68	13

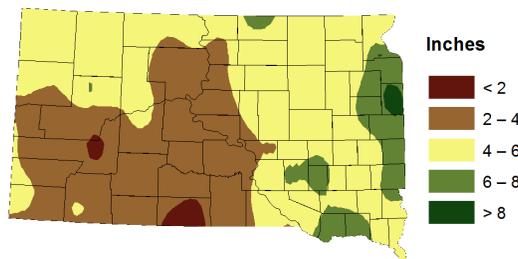
### Feed and Water Supplies Comparison as of December 30, 2012

Rating	Feed Supplies			Stock Water Supplies		
	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.	This Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
Very Short	23	0	1	31	1	3
Short	32	1	5	36	7	8
Adequate	43	88	84	33	88	81
Surplus	2	11	10	0	4	8

The next Crop Weather Report will be for the month of January and will be released January 28, 2013

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SNOW DEPTH**  
December 31, 2012



**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>
<b>Northwest</b>							
Bison	21	0	57	-11	0.33	1.08	-1.39
Buffalo	23	2	61	-7	0.29	0.98	-0.31
Dupree	21	1	62	-11	0.43	1.01	-1.38
McIntosh	18	-1	53	-12	0.19	0.88	-1.33
Newell	22	0	66	-13	0.61	0.99	-1.37
Timber Lake	20	0	56	-10	0.35	1.08	-1.55
<b>North Central</b>							
Aberdeen	16	0	56	-17	0.75	2.19	-1.03
Faulkton	20	2	61	-11	0.55	1.22	-1.93
Mobridge	18	0	54	-11	0.54	1.30	-1.10
Roscoe	17	1	53	-9	0.30	0.98	-2.03
<b>Northeast</b>							
Britton	18	0	58	-14	0.38	3.19	-0.07
Clear Lake	17	1	56	-11	1.51	3.53	-0.74
Sisseton	16	-1	60	-13	0.75	3.08	0.04
Watertown	17	1	56	-13	0.93	2.78	-0.41
Webster	18	2	57	-9	0.45	4.73	1.15
<b>West Central</b>							
Faith	20	-1	60	-8	0.37	0.88	-1.55
Milesville	22	0	64	-10	0.51	1.16	-1.62
Philip	23	0	69	-9	0.27	1.01	-1.46
Rapid City	25	0	65	-7	0.25	1.14	-1.22
Sturgis	27	0	66	-6	0.41	2.07	-1.25
<b>Central</b>							
Chamberlain	23	0	72	-7	1.08	1.65	-1.30
Highmore	20	1	66	-13	0.52	1.28	-1.64
Huron	20	1	60	-10	1.12	2.39	-0.77
Onida	21	-1	61	-9	0.47	1.28	-1.66
Pierre	21	-1	67	-11	0.65	1.46	-1.48
Wessington Spr.	19	-2	64	-10	1.21	1.78	-1.83
<b>East Central</b>							
Brookings	19	2	56	-15	1.39	4.39	0.93
Madison	21	3	60	-10	1.22	2.71	-1.19
Mitchell	22	1	62	-7	1.05	1.85	-0.98
Sioux Falls	22	3	61	-7	1.31	2.52	-1.68
<b>Southwest</b>							
Custer	25	2	54	-4	0.42	2.39	-0.06
Hot Springs	28	1	64	-10	0.57	1.95	-0.18
Martin	26	2	64	-9	0.34	1.47	-1.44
Oelrichs	27	3	66	-12	0.16	1.71	-0.58
<b>South Central</b>							
Kennebec	23	1	70	-10	0.65	1.30	-1.33
Mission	26	2	68	-7	0.33	1.20	-1.78
Murdo	25	2	70	-5	0.52	1.28	-1.72
Winner	27	2	71	-4	0.76	0.81	-1.78
<b>Southeast</b>							
Academy	22	0	71	-12	0.63	1.10	-2.14
Centerville	24	4	59	-2	1.30	2.79	-1.31
Pickstown	28	4	68	-2	0.75	1.41	-2.21
Vermillion	27	4	63	-9	1.40	2.76	-1.56
Yankton	24	1	65	-6	0.88	2.67	-1.86