

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
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UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

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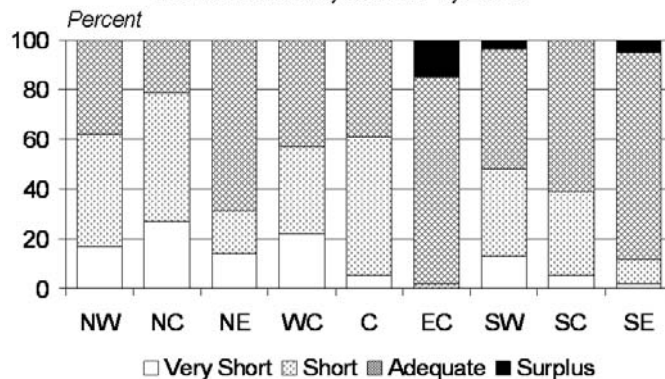
General: Below normal temperatures were seen throughout most of the state during February, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Above normal precipitation across most of the state added to water supplies and provided snow cover for winter crops. Heavy snow continued to hamper ranching activities. Outlook for spring moisture in some western counties looks good. Major farm activities included marketing grain, seed cleaning, calving, and lambing. County and secondary roads were rated 69 percent open, 21 difficult and 10 closed to traffic. Road conditions were rated 37 percent drifted, 24 icy, and 39 dry.

Statewide average snow cover was 16.9 inches on March 1, compared with 3.6 inches last year. In 1997, statewide average snow cover was 14.6 inches which was the recent high. The northwest and north central districts reported the most snow cover, both with 23.0 inches. The lowest snow cover was found in the southwest and southeast districts with 7.1 and 12.9 inches, respectively.

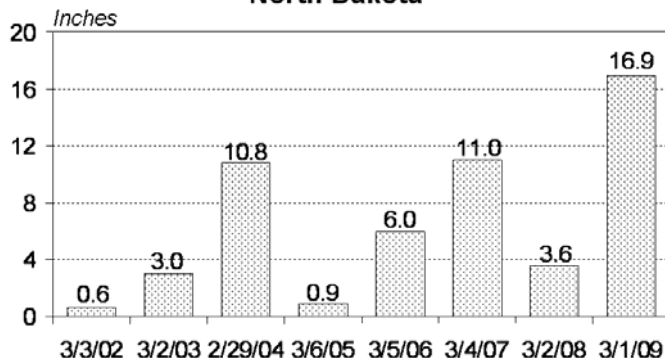
Crops: As of March 1, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 2 percent poor, 46 adequate and 52 excellent. Snow cover protection for winter wheat was rated at 4 percent poor, 42 adequate and 54 excellent.

Livestock: Calving and lambing has started with 9 and 15 percent complete, respectively. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 34 fair, 53 good and 5 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 29 fair, 61 good and 6 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 12 percent very short, 34 short, 52 adequate and 2 surplus. Reporters commented that colder temperatures are straining both livestock and their feed supplies.

**Hay and Forage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 1, 2009**



**Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota**



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Weather: Overall, February had below normal temperatures across most of the state with above normal temperatures in the extreme southwest. Temperatures well below normal affected the western part of the state. This was mainly due to snowfall being well above normal. Precipitation was above normal statewide with only isolated areas in parts of the north central and southwest seeing near to below normal precipitation. A large portion of the monthly precipitation occurred February 8-10 with heavy snow in the west and mainly rain in the east. Snowfall occurred on February 20 across much of the state except for the southwestern and northeastern areas. Heavy snowfall fell mainly across the southern and southeastern areas on February 26. Overall, the first two weeks of February had near to below normal temperatures, while the last two weeks had well below normal temperatures statewide. Abnormally dry conditions continued in the southwestern part of the state.

Outlook, March: March looks to start off with below normal temperatures for the first few days of the month and then transition to above normal temperatures for much of the first week. Precipitation looks to be near normal statewide. Below normal temperatures are predicted to affect much of the state by the second week of March. Near normal precipitation should be expected during this time. There will be some improvement in the drought conditions in the southwestern portion of the state due to near or above normal precipitation. Overall, the month of March looks to have near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation statewide.

TEMPERATURE, February 1-28, 2009

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm ¹
	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F
NORTHWEST				
Bowbells	39	-22	3	-10
Williston	44	-8	12	-5
Mohall	41	-27	3	-10
Minot	40	-18	7	-10
NORTH CENTRAL				
Baker	37	-20	6	-5
Bottineau	36	-26	3	-8
Rugby	37	-25	4	-9
NORTHEAST				
Cando	35	-29	2	-15
Cavalier	41	-22	5	-5
Forest River	42	-23	6	-7
Grand Forks	43	-22	8	-4
Langdon	35	-27	3	-4
St. Thomas	42	-19	7	-7
WEST CENTRAL				
Hazen	41	-15	9	-10
Turtle Lake	37	-18	8	-7
Watford City	40	-14	11	-10
CENTRAL				
Carrington	39	-25	4	-10
Harvey	39	-24	5	-12
Jamestown	40	-19	8	-8
Robinson	39	-20	7	-10
Streeter	40	-16	9	-5
EAST CENTRAL				
Dazey	42	-21	8	-5
Fargo	43	-17	12	-2
Hillsboro	40	-23	9	-4
SOUTHWEST				
Beach	47	-8	20	-2
Bowman	52	-16	18	-3
Dickinson	43	-10	14	-7
Hettinger	52	-16	17	-3
SOUTH CENTRAL				
Mandan	40	-13	12	-5
Linton	40	-13	12	-6
SOUTHEAST				
Edgeley	41	-18	10	-5
Oakes	43	-23	10	-4
Wyndmere	41	-22	9	-6

¹ Normal is the 1971-2000 average. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.