

# NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



USDA, NASS  
North Dakota  
Field Office

Cooperating With:  
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,  
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)  
and  
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER  
INFORMATION CENTER

Released: March 30, 2009  
For Month Ending: March 29, 2009  
ND-CW1309

**General:** March had below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across most of the state, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Severe winter weather and flooding struck regions of the state in the last week of March. The state of North Dakota was declared a disaster area on March 24, with 34 of 53 counties designated to receive aid. Reporters commented that the adverse weather has delayed fieldwork and grain movement among other activities. Primary and secondary roads were rated 57 percent open, 29 difficult and 14 closed. Road conditions were 19 percent drifted, 15 icy, 40 muddy and 26 dry.

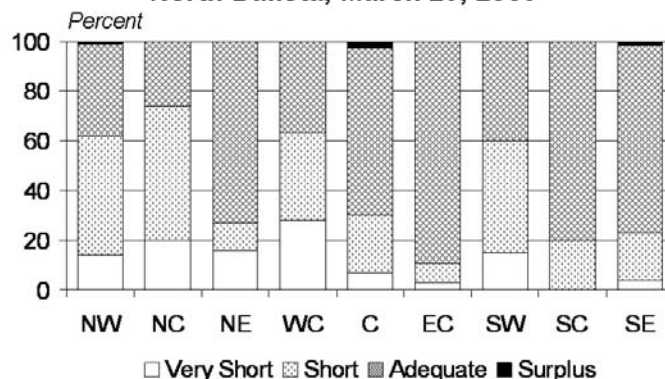
Statewide, snow cover was 8.1 inches on March 29, compared with 0.5 inch last year. The central district reported the most snow cover with 20.0 inches and the southeastern district reported the least snow cover with 2.9 inches.

**Crops:** The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 29, two weeks behind last year's expected start date. The expected starting dates ranged from April 10 in the southwest district to May 3 in the west central and north central districts. The statewide five-year (2004-2008) average starting date is April 16.

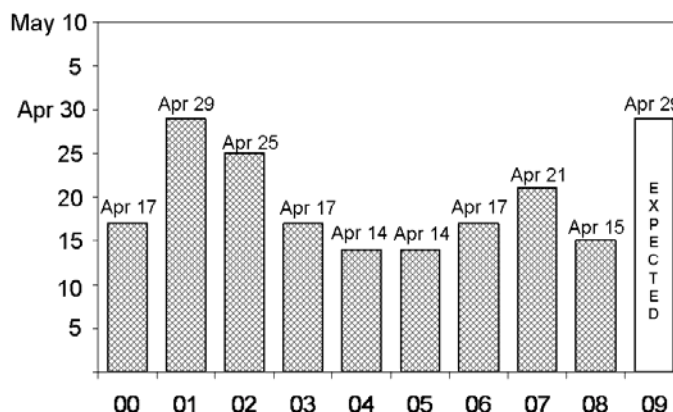
**Livestock:** Reporters noted that the snow and cold weather has further strained both calving and livestock feed supplies. Calving and lambing were 42 and 60 percent complete, respectively. Sixty-nine percent of sheep shearing is complete. Cow conditions were

rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 30 fair, 57 good and 6 excellent. Calf conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 27 percent fair, 64 good and 3 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 6 percent poor, 35 fair, 53 good and 6 excellent. Lamb conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 7 poor, 30 fair, 57 good and 5 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 15 percent very short, 32 short, 52 adequate and 1 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were rated 4 percent very short, 10 short, 84 adequate and 2 surplus. Pastures and ranges remain dormant across the state.

Hay and Forage Supplies by District  
North Dakota, March 29, 2009



Average Start Date for Fieldwork  
North Dakota, 2000-2009



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**Weather:** Overall, March had below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across much of the state. The central and northwest had temperatures well below normal. Precipitation was well above normal in the central and east with below normal precipitation in the northwest. A major precipitation event occurred on March 9-10 with heavy snowfall mainly in the southeastern part of the state. Another major precipitation event occurred from March 22-24. The majority of this precipitation was heavy rain and snow in the southwest, central and east. An additional storm with heavy snow affected south central areas of the state March 29-30 and will move to the eastern areas of the state through the end of the month. Warm temperatures in the third week of March led to snow melt contributing to flooding. Drought conditions have improved in the southwest due to above normal precipitation in March.

**Outlook, April:** April looks to start off with below normal temperatures for the first few days of the month and then transition to near or above normal temperatures for the rest of the first week. Precipitation will be above normal with heavy snowfall from March 30-April 1 across the south and east. Temperatures look to be above normal across most of the state during the second week of the month with above normal precipitation continuing. Near normal precipitation and temperatures are expected for the rest of the month. Overall, the month of April will start out very wet and transition to dryer conditions later in the month. Flooding is possible into April as snow melts statewide.

TEMPERATURE, March 1-29, 2009

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm <sup>1</sup>
	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F	Degrees F
NORTHWEST				
Bowbells	41	-26	14	-10
Williston	53	-20	24	-4
Mohall	41	-21	14	-9
Minot	41	-19	18	-10
NORTH CENTRAL				
Baker	40	-17	17	-5
Bottineau	43	-22	13	-9
Rugby	41	-18	15	-10
NORTHEAST				
Cando	40	-20	15	-13
Cavalier	48	-13	19	-3
Forest River	46	-13	21	-4
Grand Forks	50	-13	23	-2
Langdon	39	-15	15	-4
St. Thomas	45	-12	21	-5
WEST CENTRAL				
Hazen	52	-17	20	-9
Turtle Lake	43	-20	17	-10
Watford City	59	-22	24	-7
CENTRAL				
Carrington	41	-16	17	-9
Harvey	41	-17	16	-12
Jamestown	41	-21	18	-10
Robinson	43	-19	18	-11
Streeter	45	-20	17	-8
EAST CENTRAL				
Dazey	42	-21	18	-7
Fargo	52	-15	25	-2
Hillsboro	49	-19	22	-3
SOUTHWEST				
Beach	70	-20	31	0
Bowman	68	-20	27	-2
Dickinson	60	-19	26	-4
Hettinger	63	-21	26	-3
SOUTH CENTRAL				
Mandan	54	-17	21	-7
Linton	48	-18	21	-8
SOUTHEAST				
Edgeley	47	-14	22	-5
Oakes	52	-19	24	-3
Wyndmere	51	-26	23	-4

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