

SOUTH DAKOTA 2003 CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

GENERAL

South Dakota experienced another fairly dry year, with some areas still struggling with drought. Small grain seeding progressed ahead of normal, while row crop planting was completed in line with average rates. May and June were mild weather months, which allowed for normal crop development and helped many farmers to get an early start on cutting their first crop alfalfa. Silage harvest started early for many producers, with the harvest of grain also ahead of average.

JANUARY

Above-normal temperatures and below-normal snowfall were the main weather characteristics for the month. There was little snow to contend with, as the average depth for the state was 1.5 inches. Mild weather was beneficial to livestock producers allowing for maximum utilization of crop residue for grazing. However, winter crop conditions deteriorated due to the lack of snow cover.

FEBRUARY

Temperatures averaged below normal for the month of February, with the average snow depth rated at 1.0 inch. Livestock were rated in good to excellent condition. Many producers continue to worry about the effect that the lack of moisture will have on their winter crops, as well as soil moisture levels for the upcoming spring.

MARCH

Fairly mild weather was received across the state during March. Temperatures averaged only 1 degree higher than normal, with precipitation ranging from 0.14 inch to 2.66 inches. Several producers got an early start on spring field activity, but on average farmers anticipated April 8th to be the starting date for fieldwork.

APRIL

Light precipitation was received throughout the state during the month with temperatures averaging above normal. By month's end the state had experienced 17.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Seeding of small grains had progressed ahead of average with barley, spring wheat, and oats rated at 67, 88, and 80 percent seeded, respectively. The average emergence rate of small grains was at 38 percent by the end of the month.

MAY

Temperatures fell during the month to below-average levels. With much of the state receiving precipitation throughout the month, pasture conditions improved; however, there were only 20.2 days suitable for fieldwork during May. Small grain seeding neared completion during mid-month with row crop seeding progressing at average rates. By month's end, corn and soybeans were 95 and 74 percent planted respectively, with emergence behind average.

JUNE

Cool, damp weather was predominant in much of the state at the beginning of the month, with some areas receiving severe weather toward the month's end. Soil moisture levels depleted during the first few weeks of June, with precipitation improving

levels at the end of the month. Crops remained in fair to excellent condition for the month, with small grain and row crop development ahead of average. Seeding of row crops was completed at about midmonth, with the first cutting of alfalfa 89 percent complete by the end of the month.

JULY

Hot weather with varying amounts of precipitation caused topsoil and subsoil moisture levels to vary during the month. Topsoil was rated 46 percent very short to short, with subsoil rated 42 percent very short to short by month's end. Stock water supplies and range and pasture conditions were also stressed during the month. Small grain harvest began midmonth, with winter wheat harvest 91 percent complete by the end of the month.

AUGUST

Hot, dry weather during August caused crop progress to be slightly behind the five-year average. Silage harvest began mid-month with corn and sorghum silage 21 and 35 percent harvested by the end of the month. Lack of precipitation caused stock water supplies and crop conditions to decline. By month's end, topsoil moisture was rated 86 percent very short to short, with subsoil moisture rated 80 percent very short to short.

SEPTEMBER

High temperatures started off the month, with lower temperatures and precipitation received towards the end of the month. Soil moisture levels improved during the last few weeks of September, however, the majority of the state continued to have short to very short soil moisture levels. Row crop harvest began early in some areas, with progress advancing to average levels by month's end.

OCTOBER

Cool, dry conditions were common in October, as harvest moved into full swing. Row crop harvest progressed well ahead of average, with winter wheat emergence behind the five-year average. Soil moisture levels remained low for the month, as minimal precipitation was received across the state. Many producers began to utilize field residue for grazing, as pasture and range land continued to be dry.

NOVEMBER

Cool, wet weather delayed harvest temporarily for some producers midmonth and continued to hinder winter wheat emergence. Row crop harvest was primarily completed during the second week of November, with producers continuing to utilize field residue for grazing. Soil moisture levels remained low for the month, with subsoil moisture short or very short across 79 percent of the state.

DECEMBER

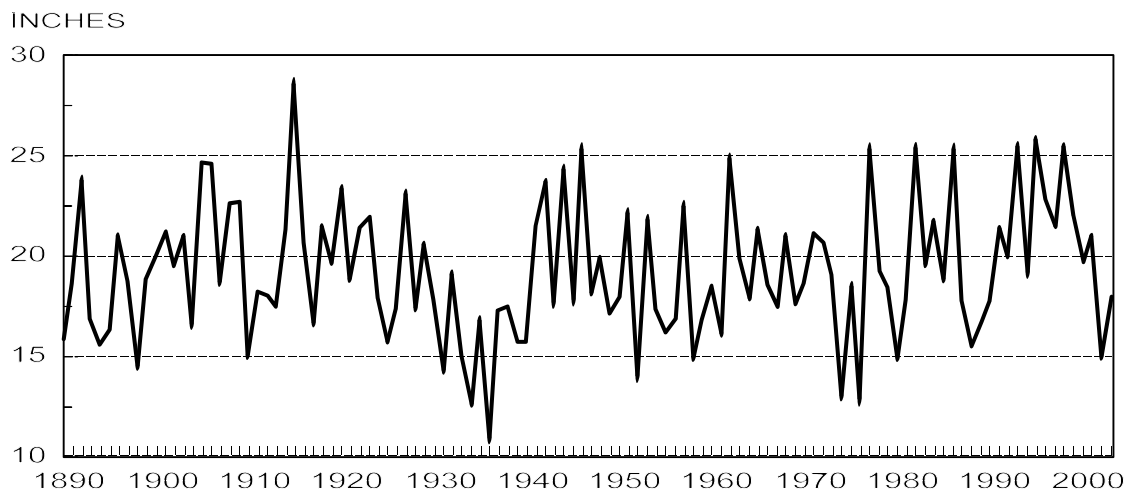
December brought trace amounts of precipitation and above-average temperatures statewide. Average snow depth for the state was 1.1 inches. The lack of snow cover worried many producers across the state. Winter crops were rated in mostly fair to excellent condition. Mild weather allowed producers to graze fields longer, to save on feed supplies.

**PRECIPITATION,
SOUTH DAKOTA, 2002-2003**

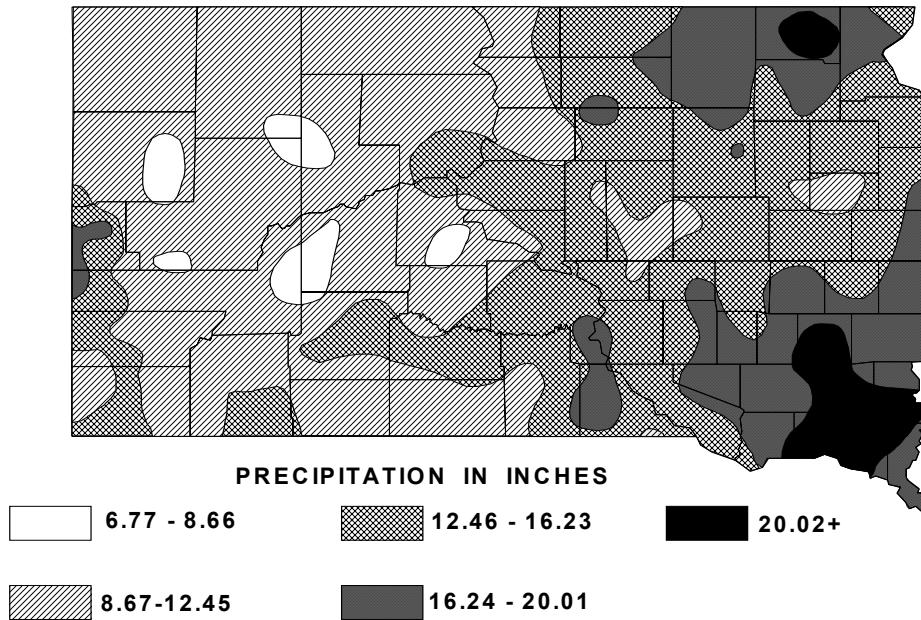
DIST.	STATION	GROWING SEASON				ANNUAL			
		APR 1 - SEPT 30 2002		APR 1 - SEPT 30 2003		2002		2003	
		TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL
----- INCHES -----									
NW	CAMP CROOK	NA	NA	9.35	-1.76	NA	NA	14.80	+0.43
	NEWELL	8.75	-2.64	8.94	-2.45	10.41	-5.07	12.75	-2.73
	LEMMON	5.92	-7.64	12.43	-1.13	8.36	-9.88	NA	NA
	DUPREE	6.77	-6.61	9.12	-4.26	8.34	-9.50	13.32	-4.52
NC	MOBRIDGE	7.40	-5.29	10.74	-1.95	8.53	-8.41	12.84	-4.10
	FAULKTON	16.28	+1.43	13.75	-1.10	18.64	-1.67	18.08	-2.23
	ABERDEEN	12.90	-2.26	18.11	+2.95	15.55	-4.67	21.28	+1.06
NE	WAUBAY	16.62	+0.73	17.52	+1.63	20.77	-0.18	19.95	-1.00
	WATERTOWN	14.22	-2.15	14.08	-2.29	18.70	-3.24	18.14	-3.80
	MILBANK	14.60	-1.48	13.64	-2.44	18.36	-3.69	16.17	-5.88
WC	SPEARFISH	10.11	-5.09	14.10	-1.10	14.54	-7.12	20.10	-1.56
	RAPID CITY	8.61	-3.78	8.13	-4.26	10.27	-6.37	10.97	-5.67
	COTTONWOOD	9.57	-3.17	7.42	-5.32	12.64	-4.52	11.24	-5.92
	MILESVILLE	8.28	-6.40	8.59	-6.09	11.60	-8.03	12.89	-6.74
C	PIERRE	13.22	-1.59	10.61	-4.20	14.41	-5.47	13.60	-6.28
	HIGHMORE	14.61	-1.38	12.98	-3.01	NA	NA	15.39	-5.84
	HURON	9.40	-5.90	12.60	-2.70	14.88	-6.02	16.42	-4.48
EC	MITCHELL	15.03	-1.76	NA	NA	20.17	-2.69	NA	NA
	BROOKINGS	18.12	+0.38	NA	NA	23.40	+0.59	NA	NA
	SIoux FALLS	18.13	+0.08	18.07	+0.02	24.07	-0.62	21.81	-2.88
SW	OELRICHS	10.25	-2.74	12.36	-0.63	13.18	-4.07	18.15	+0.90
	PORCUPINE	NA	NA	9.10	-4.14	NA	NA	NA	NA
SC	MURDO	8.06	-6.16	11.18	-3.04	10.29	-9.48	15.22	-4.55
	KENNEBEC	9.45	-4.84	15.21	+0.92	12.19	-6.52	18.87	+0.16
	WINNER	10.53	-6.89	11.22	-6.20	13.58	-10.14	15.44	-8.28
SE	PICKSTOWN	10.61	-6.91	13.42	-4.10	15.50	-7.87	NA	NA
	YANKTON	14.27	-4.48	23.57	+4.82	21.21	-3.88	29.05	-3.96

NA = NOT AVAILABLE.
SOURCE: SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CLIMATOLOGIST.

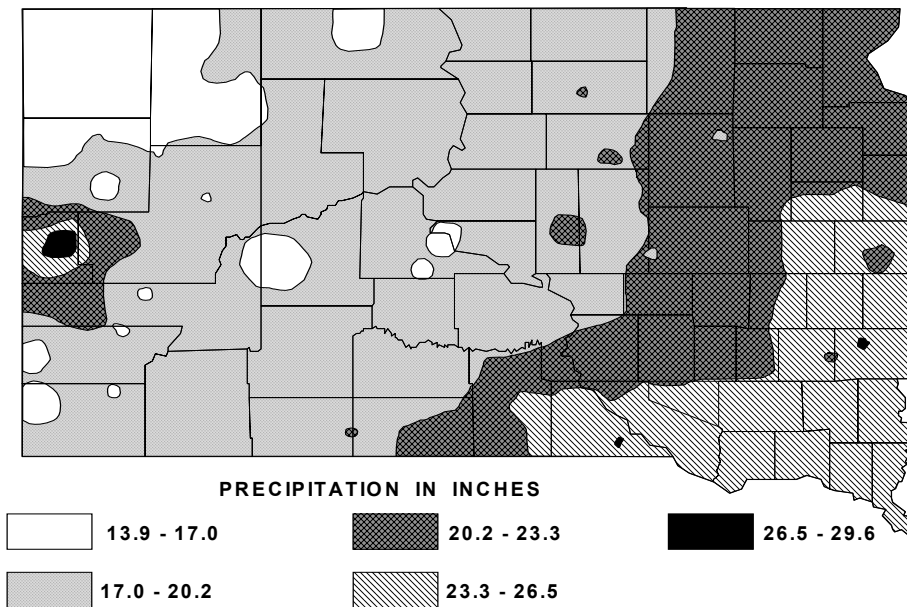
**AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION,
SOUTH DAKOTA, 1890-2003**



**GROWING SEASON PRECIPITATION,
SOUTH DAKOTA, APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 2003**



**GROWING SEASON PRECIPITATION,
SOUTH DAKOTA, APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER AVERAGE, 1971-2000**



SOURCE: SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CLIMATOLOGIST