

SOUTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER SUMMARY, 2005

GENERAL

South Dakota experienced a year of variability, with several months bringing above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation. Small grain seeding progressed ahead of average, with row crop planting in-line with the average. Mild weather helped small grains develop at an average pace, and while row crop development started off slow, they reached maturity ahead of normal. Scattered precipitation led to areas of dry soil moisture and range and pastures; however, some areas received above-normal precipitation during the year, leading to adequate moisture levels.

JANUARY

January started with temperatures slightly above average and snowfall levels below normal, with the average snow depth for the state at month's end at 0.10 inch. While minimal snow cover allowed for extended use of field residue for grazing, many producers were unsure of the winter's effects on fall seedings. Feed and stock water supplies were adequate in most areas during the month, with livestock rated in mostly good to excellent condition.

FEBRUARY

Temperatures during the month averaged 5 to 11 degrees above normal, with precipitation totals below normal for much of the state. Concerns for producers included the continued lack of snow cover and minimal precipitation, with the average snow depth for the state rated at 0.2 inch. Mild weather was welcomed by livestock producers, with calving and lambing season off to a good start, and livestock remaining in mostly good to excellent condition.

MARCH

Weather remained mild through March, with a few snow storms bringing some much-needed moisture to several areas. Subsoil moisture levels were rated slightly higher than the previous year, with some early field activity occurring. Overall, producers anticipated April 5th as the starting date for fieldwork. By March 27th, calving was 32 percent complete, with lambing 51 percent complete.

APRIL

Above-normal temperatures were almost daily occurrences during April, with below-normal precipitation totals in early April moving to above-normal totals in some areas towards the end of the month. Soil moisture levels remained mostly adequate to surplus, while significant progress was made in the seeding of small grains. The average emergence rate of small grains was 44 percent by the end of the month.

MAY

May started off cooler than normal, with precipitation throughout the month improving topsoil and subsoil moisture levels, as well as stock water supplies. By month's end, calving and lambing were both rated 99 percent complete, with livestock, range and pasture rated in mostly good to excellent condition. With 16.4 days reported suitable for fieldwork during May, small grain seeding was completed by mid-May, while corn planting was 97 percent complete, and soybean planting was 68 percent complete by month's end.

JUNE

Temperatures varied from above to below normal during the month, with precipitation keeping soil moisture levels rated at mostly adequate to surplus. Although only 14.2 days were suitable for fieldwork during June, row crop planting was virtually complete by the end of the month. Crops and

livestock were rated in mostly good to excellent condition. While small grain development was in line with the average progress, hay cutting was slightly behind average with the first cutting of alfalfa 72 percent complete by month's end.

JULY

Dry weather caused subsoil moisture levels to fall from 89 percent adequate to surplus to only 56 percent adequate to surplus in late July. Stock water supplies were also strained during the month, with livestock, range and pasture conditions deteriorating slightly. Row crop condition also fell, with small grain harvest starting in mid-July. Winter wheat harvest was 92 percent complete by the end of the month.

AUGUST

Mild, dry weather caused soil moisture and stock water levels to remain stressed during the month. Small grain harvest was virtually completed by late August. Row crop conditions were mostly fair to excellent with development falling slightly behind normal. Corn silage and sorghum silage were 21 percent and 25 percent complete, respectively, with the third cutting of alfalfa 49 percent complete by month's end. Range and pasture remained in mostly fair to excellent condition.

SEPTEMBER

September passed with mostly above-normal temperatures, and enough precipitation to improve topsoil and subsoil moisture levels, as well as stock water supplies. Crop conditions also improved, with row crops reaching maturity ahead of normal, and harvest off to an early start. By month's end, corn was approximately 12 percent harvested, with soybeans 29 percent harvested.

OCTOBER

Temperatures started off below normal in early October, yet moved to above normal by the end of the month. Precipitation was scattered during the month, yet soil moisture levels and stock water supplies remained similar to the previous month, mostly adequate to surplus. With about 24.1 days reported suitable for fieldwork, row crop harvest progressed ahead of average, with alfalfa harvest wrapping up in mid-October. Many producers began to utilize field residue for grazing, while livestock remained in mostly good to excellent condition.

NOVEMBER

Warm, dry weather allowed producers to make significant advancements in row crop harvest. Harvest was completed by mid to late-November for much of the state, ahead of the average progress. Winter wheat emergence was virtually complete by mid-month. Warm weather early in the month was beneficial to livestock, with many farmers and ranchers continuing to graze cattle on field residue. However, a major ice storm after Thanksgiving and other winter storms in late November were common.

DECEMBER

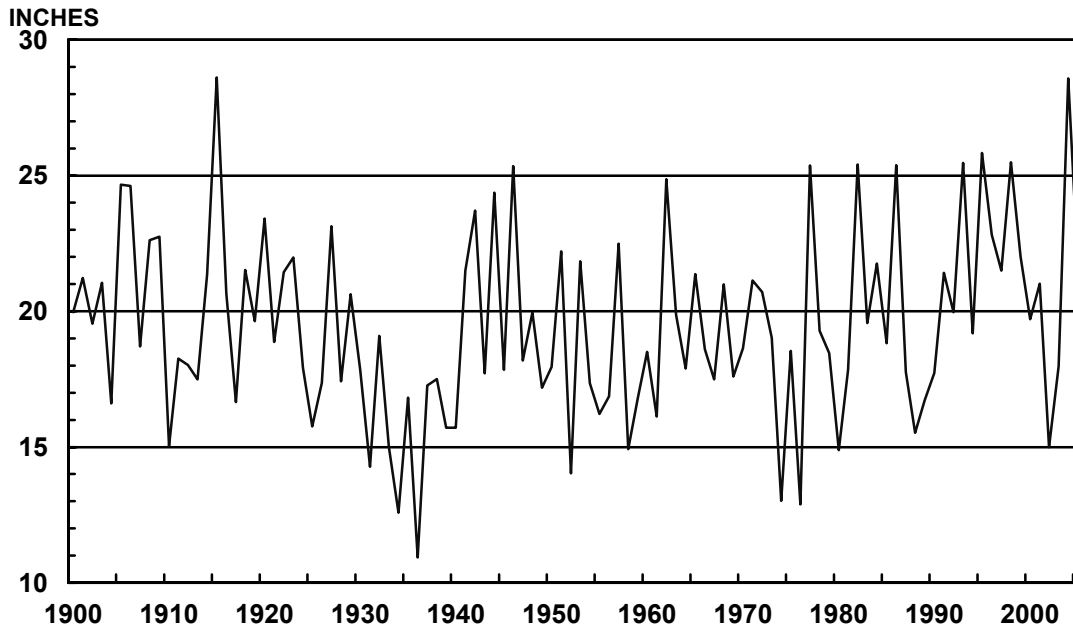
While much of December included above-normal temperatures, snowfall and severe weather were common in several areas, causing much difficulty in caring for livestock. Weather variability also stressed livestock, with temperatures ranging from mild to frigid. Lack of snow cover and previous ice storms were a concern for producers throughout the state. The average snow depth for the state at month's end was 4.1 inches.

PRECIPITATION SOUTH DAKOTA, 2004-2005

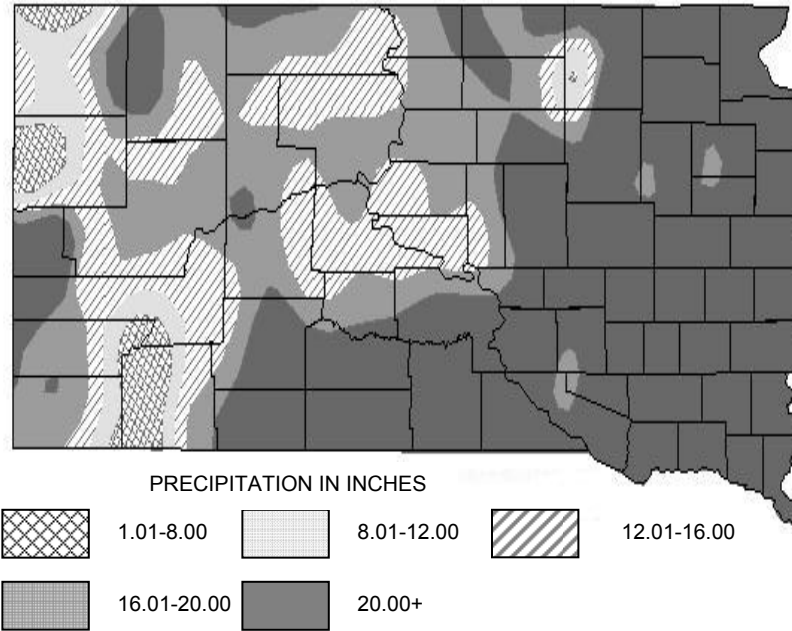
DIST.	STATION	GROWING SEASON				ANNUAL			
		APR 1-SEPT 30 2004		APR 1-SEPT 30 2005		2004		2005	
		TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL
-----INCHES-----									
NW	CAMP CROOK	10.00	-1.11	10.83	-0.28	13.85	-0.52	13.85	-0.52
	NEWELL	9.43	-1.96	14.35	+2.96	13.16	-2.32	16.55	+1.07
	LEMMON	9.40	-4.16	15.83	+2.27	11.82	-6.42	19.75	+1.51
	DUPREE	14.51	+1.13	14.65	+1.27	19.75	+1.91	16.79	-1.05
NC	MOBRIDGE	11.48	-1.21	12.46	-0.23	14.52	-2.42	14.33	-2.61
	FAULKTON	20.89	+6.04	18.26	+3.41	25.22	+4.91	22.54	+2.23
	ABERDEEN	16.91	+1.75	14.09	-1.07	21.77	+1.55	18.70	-1.52
NE	WAUBAY	19.28	+3.39	17.51	+1.62	24.71	+3.76	22.74	+1.79
	WATERTOWN	19.65	+3.28	16.50	+0.13	27.12	+5.18	21.90	-0.04
	MILBANK	21.45	+5.37	16.20	+0.12	26.55	+4.50	22.51	+0.46
WC	SPEARFISH	10.43	-4.77	13.84	-1.36	14.43	-7.23	19.76	-1.90
	RAPID CITY	9.87	-2.52	11.28	-1.11	13.16	-3.48	14.41	-2.23
	COTTONWOOD	9.71	-3.03	12.96	+0.22	13.13	-4.03	16.37	-0.79
	MILESVILLE	16.36	+1.68	15.70	+1.02	20.99	+1.36	18.84	-0.79
C	PIERRE	14.10	-0.71	11.20	-3.61	18.70	-1.18	13.34	-6.54
	HIGHMORE	19.19	+3.20	15.97	-0.02	24.00	+2.77	19.54	-1.69
	HURON	21.90	+6.60	19.65	+4.35	29.71	+8.81	25.78	+4.88
EC	MITCHELL	22.46	+5.67	23.47	+6.68	28.10	+5.24	28.86	+6.00
	BROOKINGS	22.00	+4.26	26.27	+8.53	24.99	+2.18	33.12	+10.31
	SIOUX FALLS	25.48	+7.43	22.98	+4.93	30.92	+6.23	31.71	+7.02
SW	OELRICHS	7.41	-5.58	17.62	+4.63	10.92	-6.33	19.72	+2.47
	PORCUPINE	9.87	-3.37	17.03	+3.79	14.55	NA	20.63	+3.11
SC	MURDO	12.78	-1.44	15.15	+0.93	17.94	-1.83	19.39	-0.38
	KENNEBEC	14.67	+0.38	16.85	+2.56	22.01	+3.30	22.83	+4.12
	WINNER	16.33	-1.09	18.11	+0.69	22.41	-1.31	22.70	-1.02
SE	PICKSTOWN	16.62	-0.90	18.82	+1.30	21.51	-1.86	24.83	+1.46
	YANKTON	NA	NA	22.36	+3.61	NA	NA	30.62	+5.53

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

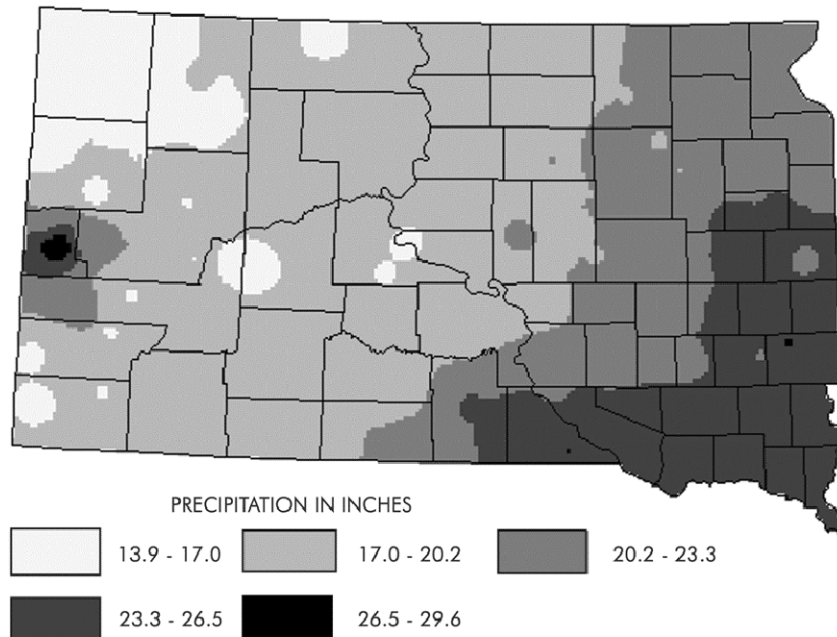
AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION, SOUTH DAKOTA, 1900-2005



**GROWING SEASON PRECIPITATION,
SOUTH DAKOTA, APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 2005**



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



SOURCE: SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CLIMATOLOGIST