



The North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

January 2016

Precipitation:

January is climatologically the second driest month in North Dakota with the state averaging just 0.49 inches of precipitation. Taking an average of the cooperative and CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network) observers, the average precipitation in North Dakota in January 2016 was just 0.25 inches. That dryness was widespread throughout much of the state (Figure 1). The one exception was associated with a narrow, yet heavy band of snow that fell just to the west and north of Fargo during the overnight hours of January 6 and 7. Harwood, ND recorded over 12 inches of snow from that system with others from Leonard, ND to Mahanomen, MN recording similar amounts. Because of the mesoscale nature of the heavy snow most locations 20 miles or farther away from that band recorded little if any snowfall that night.

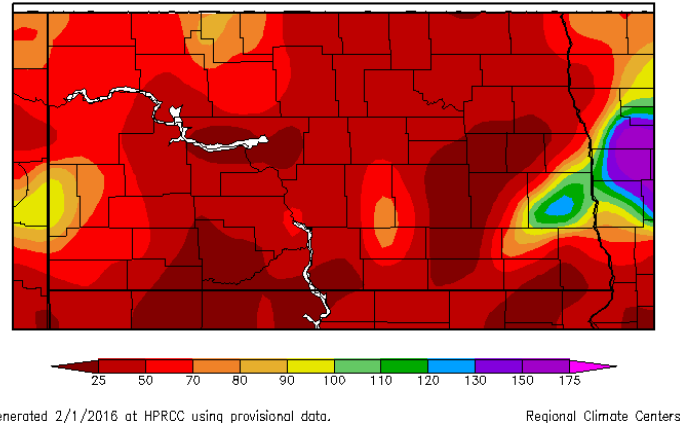


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in January, 2016 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

For the first 20 days of the month, the temperature across much of North Dakota was averaging below normal, but the end of the month was so mild that as a whole the month of January finished with temperatures running 3 to 5 degrees above average (Figure 2). The average temperature for the North Dakota NDAWN (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network) stations in January was 13.5° which is 4.0° above normal for those stations. It was the maximums and minimums generally in the 20s and 30s during the last 10 days of the month that pushed the monthly temperature positive. Before that, there was nearly a two week stretch of well below normal temperatures including a couple of mornings with lows in the -30s near Fargo in the same area that recorded the abundant snowfall previously mentioned.

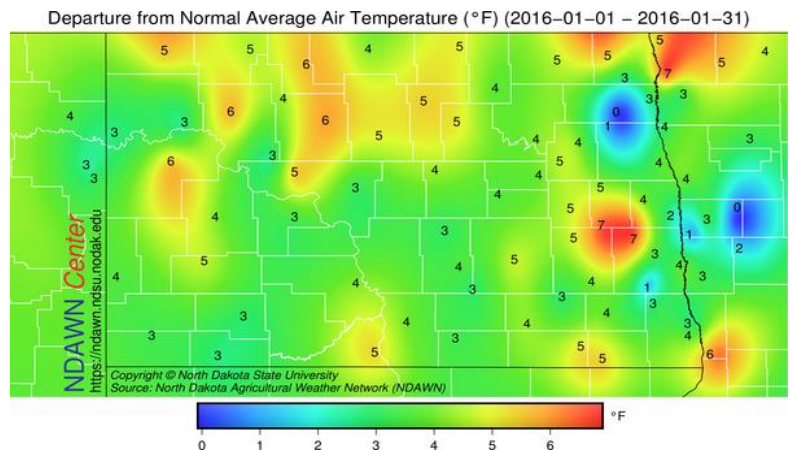


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in January, 2016 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)