



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the month of January 2007, below normal temperatures were experienced statewide along with snow and ice, which caused long hours for livestock producers, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Livestock were being fed forage with limited access to stalks due to snow cover. The cold weather and wind chills were also impacting livestock and the beginning of spring calving. Concern for the winter wheat crop was expressed across the mid section of the state as ice cover during January increased the possibility of winter kill. However, little will be known until green-up occurs. Other producer activities included staying inside as much as possible by attending meetings, working on record books, and planning for the upcoming crop season.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/index](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index)

**Weather Summary:** Depth of snow at the end of January averaged at least one inch across all districts with the Southwest District reporting up to five inches of snow cover. January precipitation was above average for the southern half and eastern third of the state.

**Field Crops Report:** **Wheat** conditions were below month ago levels and rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 40 fair, 52 good, and 2 excellent. This is near last year's condition of 52 percent good or excellent. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 5 percent very short, 30 short, 65 adequate and 0 surplus.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** **Cattle and calves** condition rated 4 percent very poor, 5 poor, 31 fair, 56 good, and 4 excellent, well below year ago levels. Calving was underway at 6 percent complete with calf losses reported as 5 percent below average, 89 average, and 6 above average.

**The following are comments from Nebraska's FSA County Executive Directors and County Extension Educators:**

## ***NORTHWEST***

DAWES: We have had an open winter so winter grazing has been utilized. Hay supplies are tight. Calving is just getting underway.

SCOTTSBLUFF/MORRILL: Most cropland was covered with snow the majority of the month from late December storms. Most winter wheat was also covered with snow during the extreme cold.

## ***NORTH CENTRAL***

HOLT/BOYD: Snow and ice on corn stalks are causing a big problem for livestock producers. Cows are being fed 100% hay in many cases with access to stalks being very limited. This increases the cost tremendously and also requires a much larger use of labor. The continuing ice and snow cover on wheat and alfalfa fields may mean huge losses of stand. The result of this ice and snow cover will not be known until spring growth begins.

## ***NORTHEAST***

BOONE: Continuing sub zero temperatures hinder calving operations and stress cow calf herds.

CEDAR: Fields have snow cover and falling temperatures are resulting in livestock needing more hay and silage.

## ***CENTRAL***

BUFFALO: With the frigid weather this week, producers are looking for indoor tasks whenever possible. A few new calves are on the ground, but the heavy calving season has not started. New pricing outlook for crops and livestock means planning and tuning new cropping and production systems for both crop and livestock producers.

DAWSON: January has been a cold, snowy month. Producers have spent long hours dealing with livestock – weather related concerns. Corn stalks have contributed little to cattle grazing; therefore, the hay supply is pretty much committed. Crop producers have been attending meetings, working on taxes, purchasing inputs for this year's crop, delivering last year's production, marketing next year's crop, and getting their finances lined up with their lender.

## ***EAST***

DODGE: Crop protection clinics and ordering seed are the main activities for producers.

SARPY/DOUGLAS: Cold weather and snow cover has increased the use of hay for livestock.

## ***SOUTHWEST***

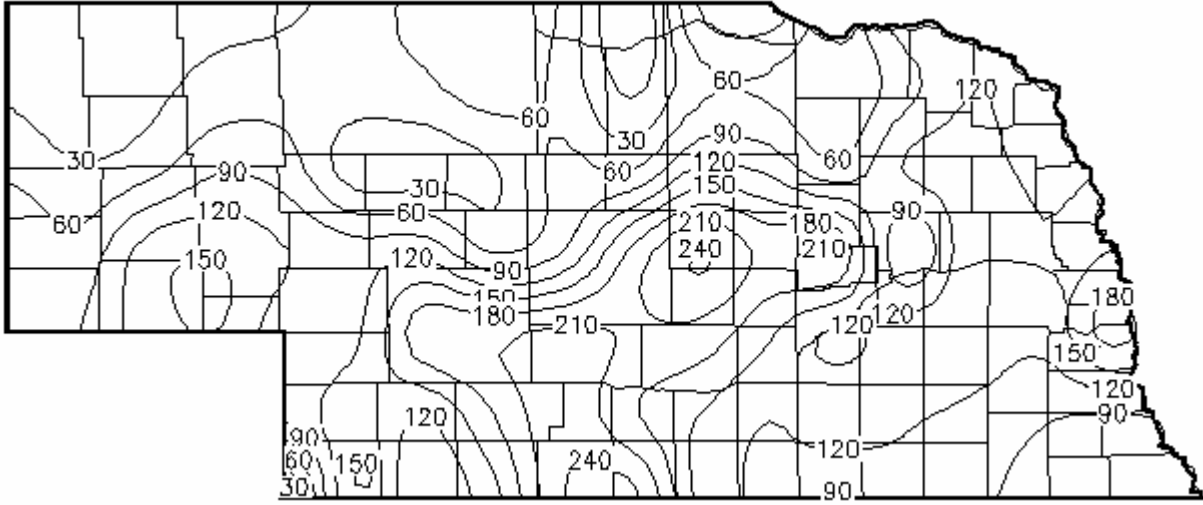
HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Remaining snow and ice make it difficult to care for livestock. Producers are using extra feed and many are concerned they will be short. Cold temperatures are hard on newborn livestock.

## ***SOUTH CENTRAL***

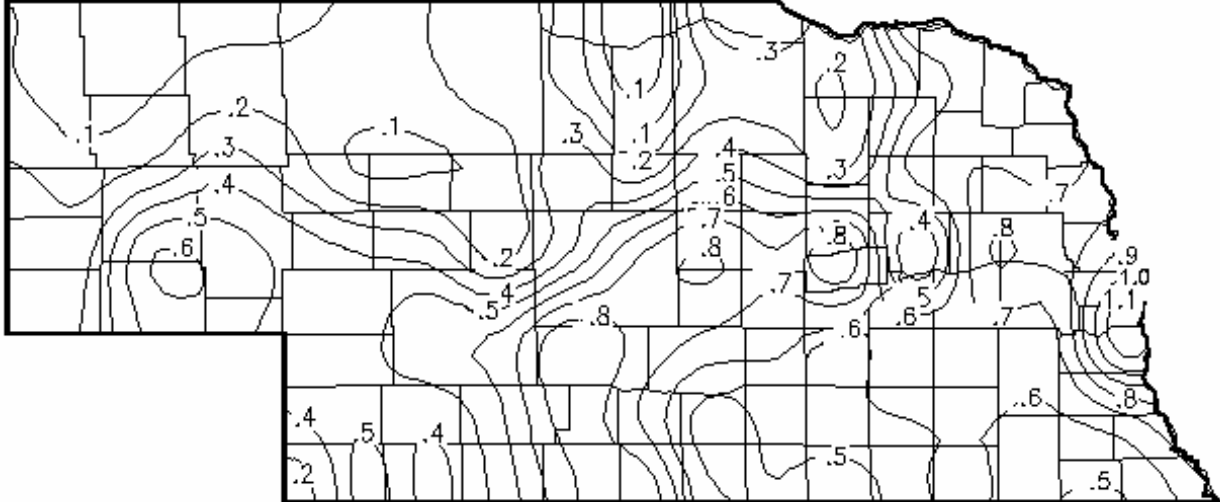
FURNAS: There is concern that the ice might have caused winter kill in wheat fields. It has been on the fields for at least 30 days. Spring will tell the story.

PHELPS: Very cold weather and snow cover has made calving very difficult.

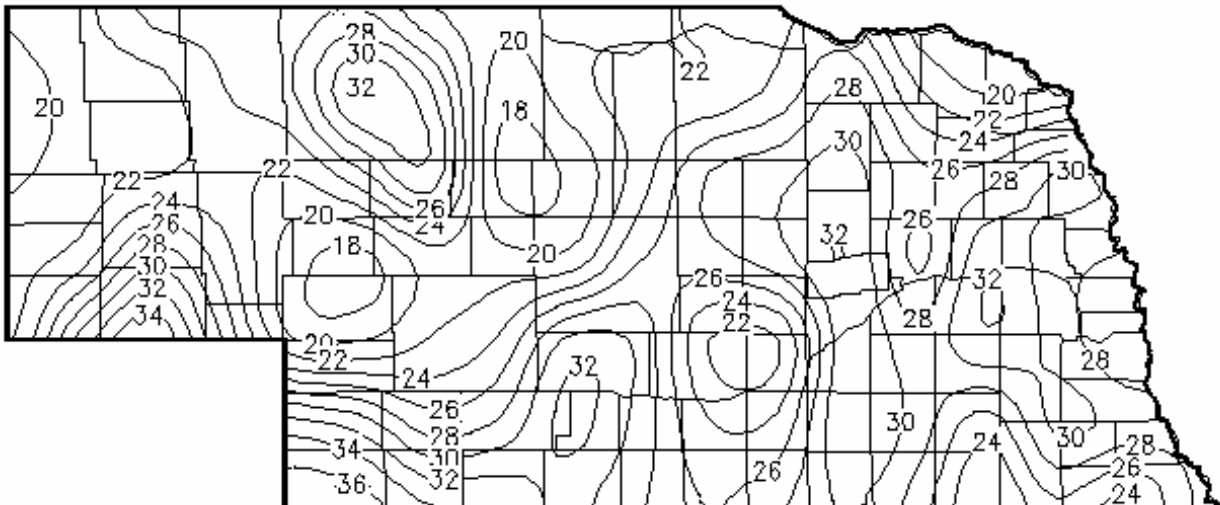
**PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 2007<sup>1</sup>**



**PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2007<sup>1</sup>**



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL  
JANUARY 29, 2007 – FEBRUARY 4, 2007<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office

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