



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Issue NE-CW 0508

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of January 2008, mild temperatures the first half of the month gave way to bitter cold temperatures with wind chills dipping well below zero during the last half. The fluctuation in temperatures put unwanted stress on livestock as the calving season got underway. Producers were supplementing feed for livestock due to the cold temperatures and snow cover. Other producer activities included moving grain, machinery maintenance, calving, and completing taxes.

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

Weather Summary: Depth of snow at the end of January averaged two inches across the state with the North Central District reporting over five inches of snow cover. Precipitation averaged below normal for the month as did temperatures. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures were above year ago levels in most areas and ranged from 26 degrees in the north central to 33 degrees in the southwest.

Field Crops Report: **Wheat** conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 35 fair, 54 good, and 4 excellent, above last year's 54 percent good or excellent condition. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 1 percent very short, 11 short, 86 adequate and 2 surplus, well above last year's 65 percent adequate and surplus.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 21 fair, 74 good, and 4 excellent, well above last year's 60 percent good and excellent. Calving was underway at 6 percent complete with limited calf losses reported.

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

NORTHWEST

DAWES: Due to cold weather and snow, producers have had to feed a lot of very expensive hay.

SHERIDAN: Snow cover and cold conditions are causing livestock to be fed earlier than anticipated, causing a concern about how long adequate feed will be available.

NORTH CENTRAL

HOLT/BOYD: Most livestock producers are feeding hay daily as corn stalk quality is generally low this time of year besides the problem of snow cover. Crop producers are busy going to pesticide, chemical, and nitrogen classes, working on taxes, and planning spring work.

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Cold weather has been hard on livestock. Calving has just really gotten started at this time.

THURSTON: Fluctuating temperatures have stressed livestock, especially feedlot cattle. Farmers are being required to feed more hay than normal as stalk fields have been mostly covered with snow.

CENTRAL

BUFFALO: Continued cold weather and snow cover has put additional stress on all livestock, especially very young and older animals. Although producers still have a considerable number of stock cows in the stalk fields, most are supplementing with stored feeds.

DAWSON: The temperatures have been below average but snowfall has been modest. Farmers are gearing up for spring and cow calf producers are just starting to calf with some first calf heifers leading the way.

EAST

DODGE: The main activities are going to farm workshops and ordering seed, chemicals, and fertilizers for this year's growing season. Supplemental feeding is required for cattle.

WASHINGTON: Calving will pick up significantly in February. More producers are feeding hay as there is so much snow cover on stalk ground.

SOUTHWEST

FRONTIER: Fields and pastures remain frozen with patches of ice and snow as the weather remains cold. Ranchers have just begun spring calving.

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Wheat fields are open. Calving season is beginning for most producers.

SOUTH CENTRAL

HARLAN: Some of the ice from December 6, 2007, is still on the ground and in stalk fields. Hay feeding is reducing inventory in the area. Many older cows are in very sad looking shape.

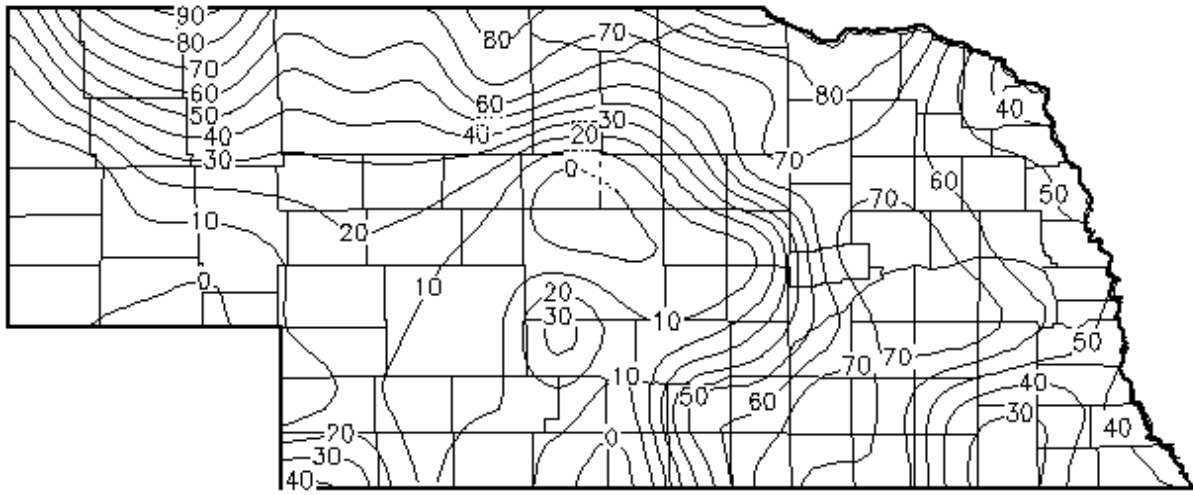
WEBSTER: Calving is getting started. Bitter cold weather may cause some higher than normal calf losses as times goes on.

SOUTHEAST

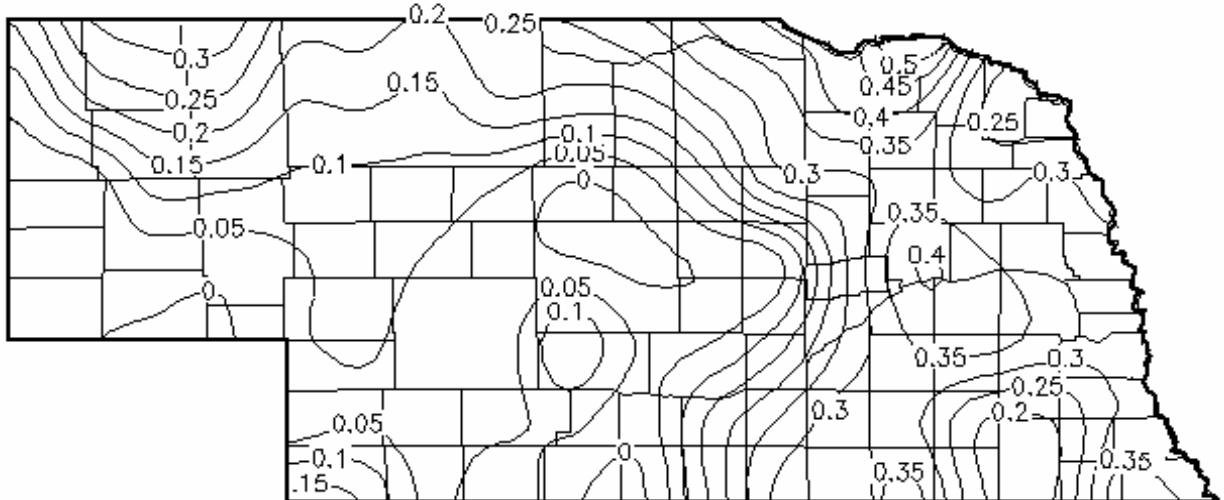
JOHNSON: Farmers are moving grain, working on machinery maintenance, calving, and completing taxes.

NEMAHA: There has been a lot of grain moving this winter. We have had some cold temperatures.

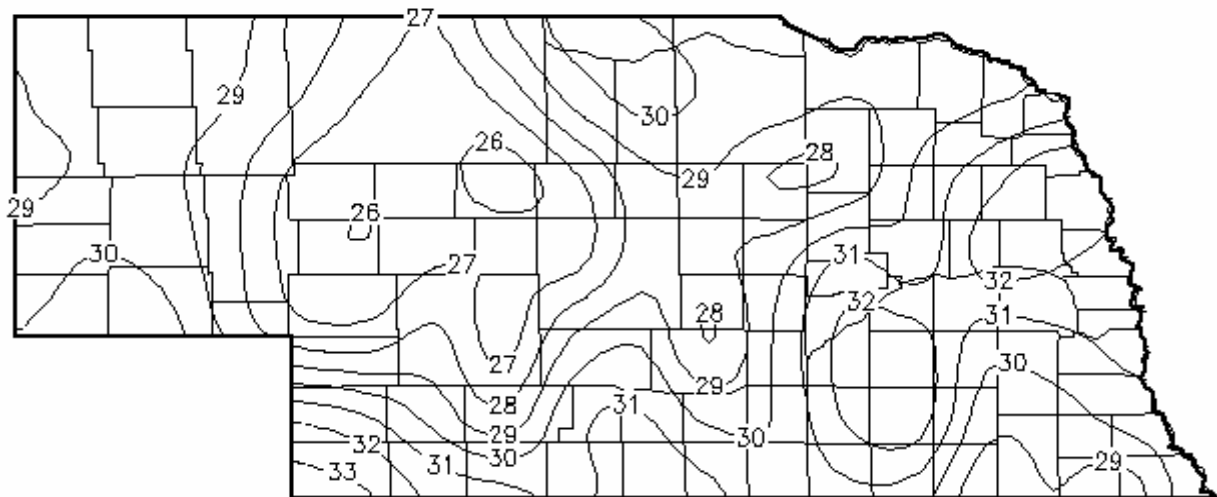
PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 2008¹



PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2008¹



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
JANUARY 28, 2008 – FEBRUARY 3, 2008¹**



¹ Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office