



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending April 20, 2008, another wet week for much of the east and south kept anxious producers out of the field, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Warmer weather and windy conditions at the end of the week raised soil temperatures and began to dry soils. The first fields of corn were planted in western counties; however, the majority of corn producers were still waiting on warmer, dryer conditions. Pastures and rangeland continue to green up and grow slowly. Alfalfa has also been slow to come out of dormancy, due to the cool temperatures. Panhandle producers continue to struggle with dry conditions with moisture needed for pastures and wheat.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees above normal in the Panhandle and southwestern Nebraska, while temperatures were near normal in the rest of the state. Temperatures ranged from highs in the mid to upper 80's in the southwest to lows in the high teens in portions of the eastern part of the state. The Panhandle received very little precipitation, while the Southeast District recorded up to 2 inches of moisture.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending April 20, 2008**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	2	4	5	6
Short	12	11	8	23
Adequate	70	65	79	68
Surplus	16	20	8	3
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	6	7	15	23
Short	24	24	24	34
Adequate	65	65	59	43
Surplus	5	4	2	0
<b>Days Suitable</b>	2.8	2.1	2.0	4.6

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 39 fair, 45 good, and 10 excellent, above the 50 percent good or excellent of last year and the average. Wheat jointed was at 5 percent, behind last year's 25 and 10 days behind 21 average.

Alfalfa rated 3 percent poor, 28 fair, 61 good, and 8 excellent. Conditions are well above last year's 28 percent good or excellent condition and the average of 53 good or excellent.

Oats planted increased to 57 percent, behind last year's 60 and a week behind 78 average. Oats emerged was at 14 percent, behind last year's 19 and 30 average.

Corn planted was underway mainly in the west but limited to 2 percent state wide. This is behind both last year at 6 and the five-year average of 8.

**Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending April 20, 2008**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	2		6	8
Oats Planted	57	38	60	78
Oats Emerged	14	6	19	30
Wheat Jointed	5	1	25	21

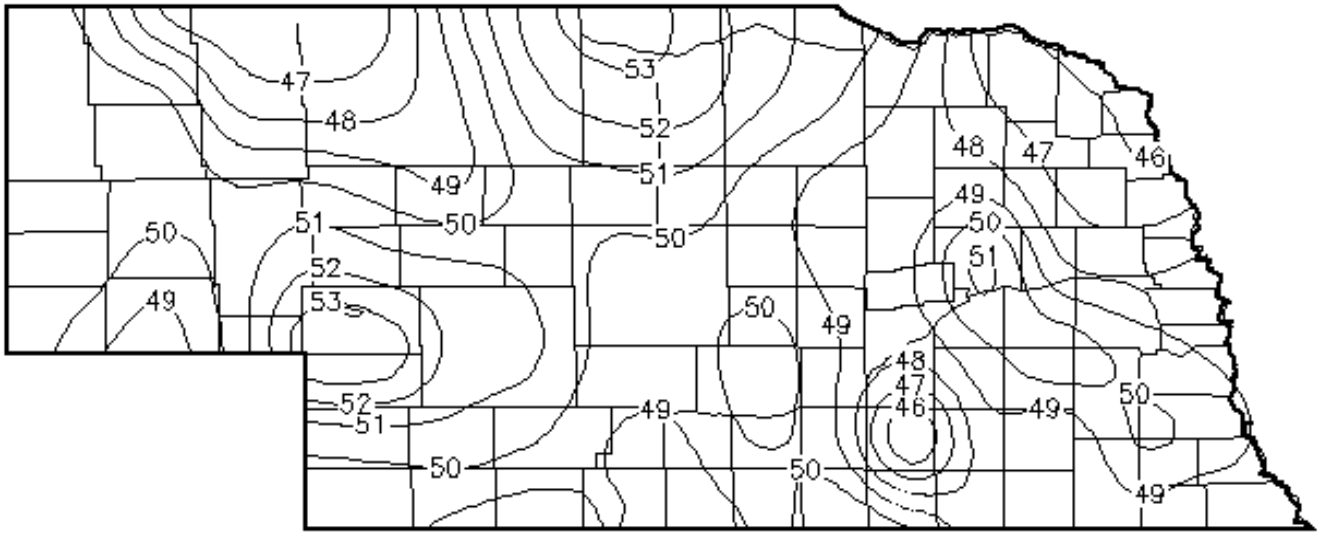
**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 20, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	0	3	28	61	8
Wheat	1	5	39	45	10

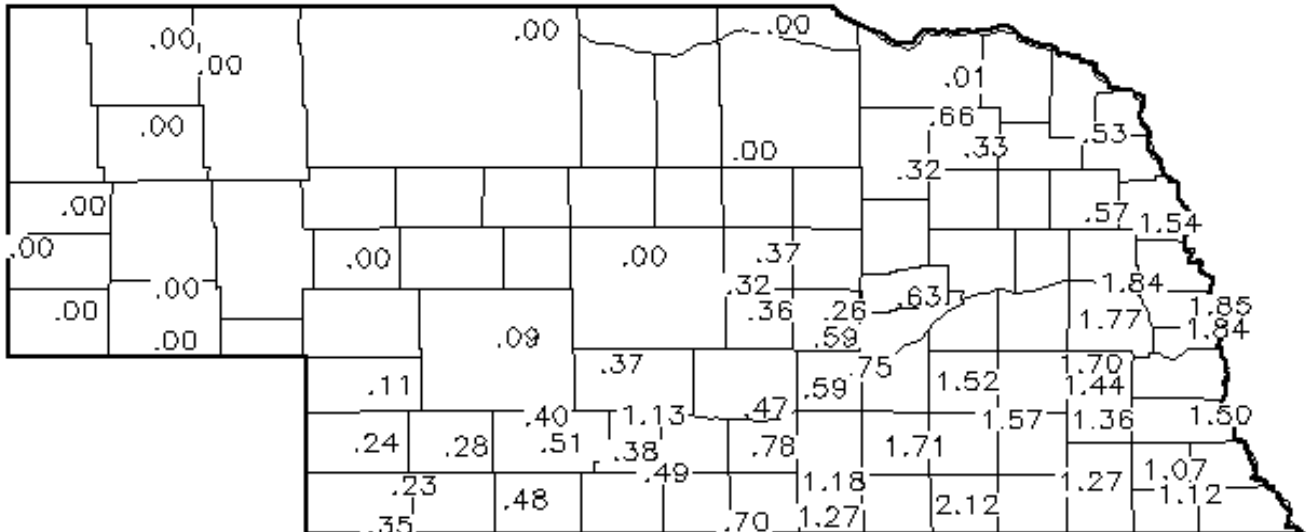
**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions rated 6 percent poor, 33 fair, 54 good, and 7 excellent, well above last year. Spring calving was 88 percent complete. Calf losses rated 8 percent below average, 90 average, and 2 above average.

*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/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm)*

**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil  
April 14 – April 20, 2008**



**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. April 20, 2008**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – April 20, 2008**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.00	.01	.49	.36	1.50	.33	.67	1.50
Total since April 1	.77	1.44	2.11	2.42	3.37	1.93	2.32	3.33
Normal since April 1	1.12	1.33	1.66	1.57	1.76	1.21	1.31	1.79
Total as % of normal	67%	108%	126%	154%	190%	159%	177%	188%

**Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, April 20, 2008**

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	82	21	49	+1
	Scottsbluff	84	21	51	+2
	Sidney	84	23	50	+1
NC	Ainsworth	80	28	52	0
	Arthur	85	27	51	+1
	O'Neill	78	25	51	-1
NE	Concord	77	19	48	-4
	Elgin	76	24	50	-2
	West Point	78	21	50	-4
C	Grand Island	80	23	52	0
	Lexington	82	24	52	0
	Ord	80	22	51	-1
EC	Central City	79	18	51	-2
	Lincoln	79	24	52	-2
	Mead	77	22	51	-3
SW	Champion	89	21	51	-1
	Dickens	85	27	52	+1
	McCook	88	26	53	+2
SC	Minden	81	22	52	0
	Red Cloud	79	21	51	-1
	Smithfield	82	26	52	0
SE	Beatrice	81	24	51	-3
	Clay Center	78	22	50	-2
	Nemaha	76	28	53	-2

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