



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of January 2009, mild temperatures the first three weeks of the month gave way to bitter cold temperatures with lows and wind chills dipping well below zero during the last week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures were above year ago levels in most areas and ranged from 28 degrees to 34 degrees across the state. 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 was minimal and averaged one inch across the state with the Panhandle reporting over five inches of snow cover and the Northeast District near 3 inches. Precipitation averaged below normal for the month while temperatures averaged 3 degrees above normal.

Field Crops Report: **Wheat** conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 3 poor, 22 fair, 64 good, and 11 excellent, above last year's 58 percent good or excellent condition. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 0 percent very short, 4 short, 93 adequate and 3 surplus, above last year's 88 percent adequate and surplus.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 17 fair, 78 good, and 4 excellent, above last year's 78 percent good and excellent. Calving was underway at 5 percent complete.

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

NORTHWEST

CHEYENNE/BANNER/KIMBALL: The wheat has been hit with strong winds, cold temperatures, and little snow cover this winter.

SIOUX: A foot of light moisture snow followed by high winds has made winter feeding more difficult as drifting continually occurs.

NORTHEAST

ANTELOPE: Mild temperatures at the end of the month gave the first good snow melt for the winter. Most of the county had old snow cover from the beginning of the season prior to Saturday. Ice has been a problem for cattle, so melt will help ranchers also.

BOONE: Weather warmed at the end of the month eliminating 99 percent of the snow cover.

CEDAR: Snow and ice cover has limited the gleaning of crop residue for some producers. Most cows, with the exception of the older ones, are looking good and carrying good flesh. Some producers are getting crop inputs, fertilizer - seed - cash rents, put together for this spring. Fertilizer prices have a wide swing from dealers that took delivery last fall and those taking delivery now.

KNOX: Activities included tax work, program signup, some grain marketing. Some are delaying purchase of inputs in expectation that prices will weaken.

THURSTON: Cattle producers and feeders are focusing on keeping feed supplements and hay available for their herds. Stock fields have a cover of snow and cow-calf producers need to feed hay to get through the winter. Other farm activities include machinery preparation for spring, informational meetings and farm shows, income tax preparation and procuring farm inputs such as chemicals, fertilizer and seed.

CENTRAL

YORK: Approximately 2 inches of snow fell on Jan 24-27. Most of that stayed on the ground until the last few days of the month when 40-50 degree days made the fields bare of snow. Cattle are doing well grazing stock fields. Wind and weather was extreme at mid-month. Farmers are delivering contracted grain off the farm. Country roads are in good condition.

SOUTHWEST

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Weather has been dry and windy causing concern over wheat condition.

SOUTH CENTRAL

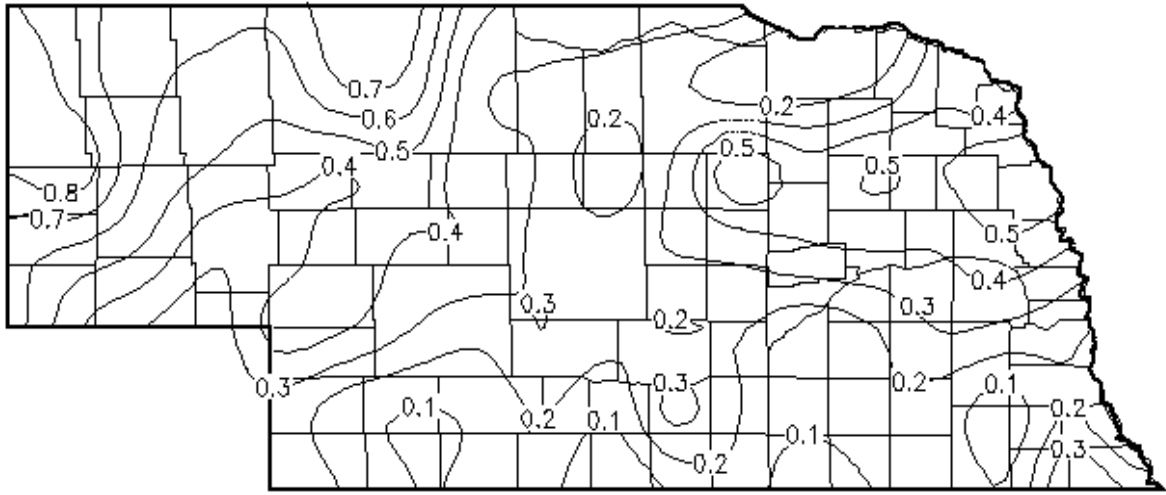
HARLAN: The very cold days are thankfully broken up by several warm days that make it bearable. Hay sales continue to be a mystery to me. It seems like one day all truck loads of hay are going south and the next day they are going north.

PHELPS: Calving will become more active in February.

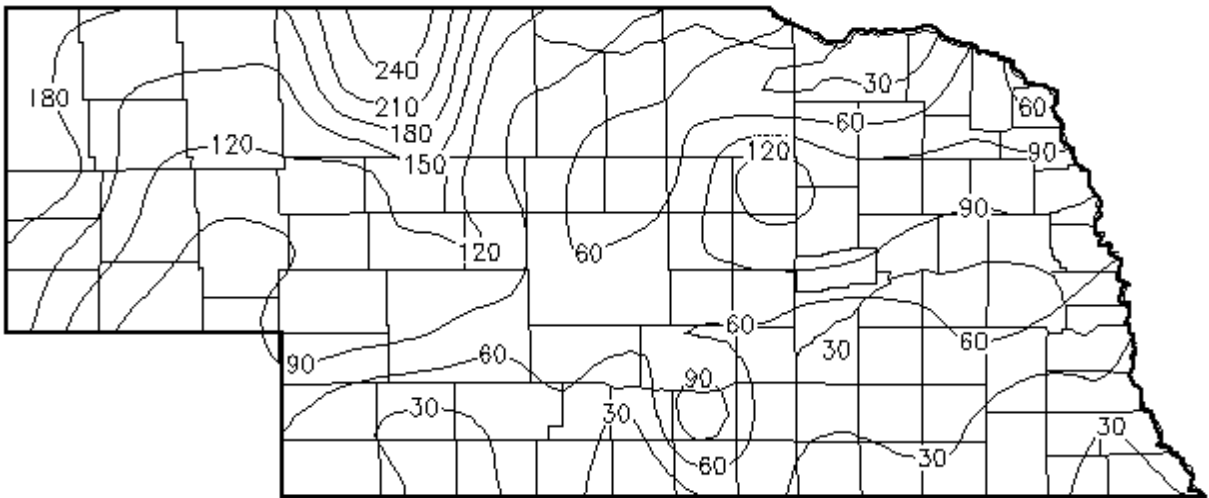
SOUTHEAST

FILLMORE: Had about 1 inch of snow, now down to one quarter of an inch.

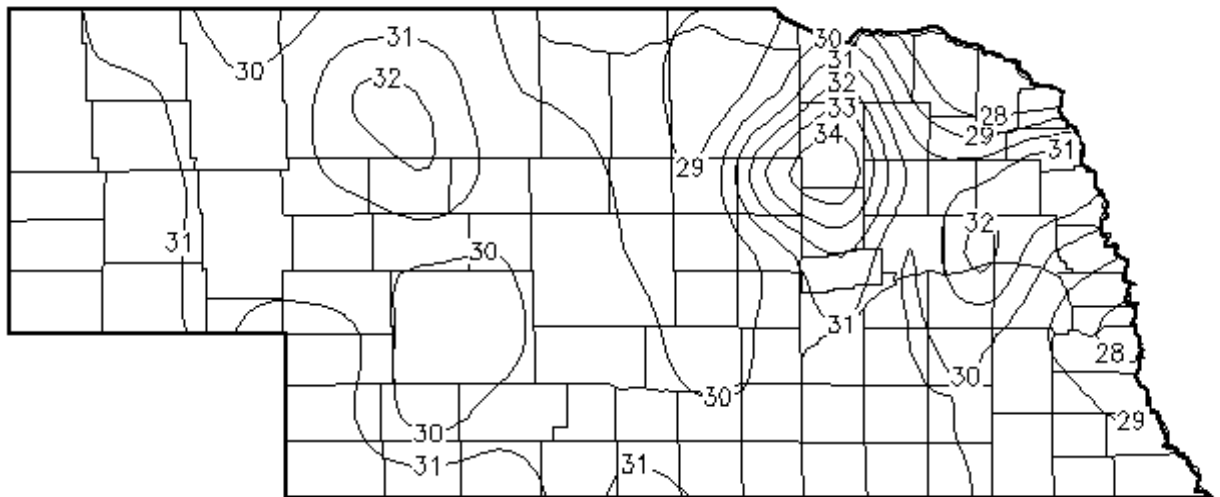
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2009¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 2009¹



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
JANUARY 26, 2009 – FEBRUARY 1, 2009¹**



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