



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending December 13, 2009, wintery weather consisting of heavy snow, strong winds, and subzero temperatures stalled harvest, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Limited harvest progress was made, with only 1.5 days suitable for field work during the week. Many eastern areas received a foot or more of snow on Tuesday and Wednesday. High grain moisture levels continue to be reported with cold air temperatures increasing drying expenses.

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 the second week of December averaged seven inches across the state. The Southeast and South Central Districts reported the largest amount of snow cover at 10 inches while the Southwest and Panhandle averaged less than five inches. Temperatures were eighteen degrees below normal for the week and ranged from the 40's for highs to lows of -24. Precipitation was statewide in the form of snow.

Field Crops Report: Corn harvested was 91 percent complete. Sorghum harvest was 94 percent complete.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending December 6, 2009

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year ¹	Aver-
				age ¹
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Harvested	91	88		
Sorghum Harvested	94	87		

¹ Data not available

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

NORTHWEST

SCOTTSBLUFF/MORRILL: Snow most of the week stalled corn harvest progress.

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Harvest has stopped due to snow and cold conditions.

CEDAR: The snowfall of 8 inches on December 8th and 9th, along with the wind, has put a near stop on the already late harvest of corn. Producers that have harvested after the snow are reporting that with the cold temperatures moisture in the corn is coming down. Snow has drifted into the fields and not all can be harvested.

DIXON: Corn harvest is getting more difficult by the week as producers are now battling the snow and cold temperatures. For several producers caught in this situation, harvest could be stretched out for some time.

KNOX: Snowy conditions have prevented most corn harvest. Remaining corn continues to carry excess moisture.

THURSTON: A major snow storm/blizzard hit Dec. 8 leaving 8-11 inches of snow on the ground. 30-45 MPH winds closed country roads through most of Dec. 9. Harvest activities were halted for most of the week. At least 10 percent of the corn crop remains unharvested. Lines at country elevators remain long and slow. Drying corn in cold temperatures is becoming very expensive. Reports indicate most unharvested corn is between 16 and 22 percent moisture. There are some reports of mold on the ears from the rain in October. Some elevators have large quantities of grain stored on the ground.

EAST CENTRAL

CASS: For all practical purposes we are done with corn harvest, with only a few scattered patches still standing. We are probably 99.9% complete, which is good considering the recent weather.

COLFAX: Snow drifts are higher than 12 inches in many areas ---probably up to 4 ft. or more.

DODGE: There is still corn that needs to be harvested but the elevators are full and the big snow storm put a halt to all harvest and fieldwork.

DOUGLAS: Lots of snow and still some corn standing.

LANCASTER: A blizzard and 10-14 inches of snow has put a stop to the fieldwork.

SAUNDERS: A final push for harvest took most to the end. However, there is a large amount of corn still in the field that never has dried down. With the amount of snow sitting around, it may be a while before anyone can get to what's left.

YORK: Snow started falling Sunday afternoon. 10 to 12 inches of snow fell by midweek. All field work is finished for the year as there are large drifts in the fields. Good snow cover on most harvested fields. Several days of high, cold winds did not let the snow stay where it fell. It is fortunate that corn harvest was completed in our area before the snow came. Cattle in the stock fields have to go under the snow to find the forage. They don't stay out in the cold winds very long at a time. Not easy to keep fresh water in the tanks in the fields.

SOUTHEAST

FILLMORE: Large snow drifts etc. shut down schools for 2 days, closed businesses, but to date, I have not heard of any major losses.

GAGE: Actual snow depth 0-39 inches depending on where you are.

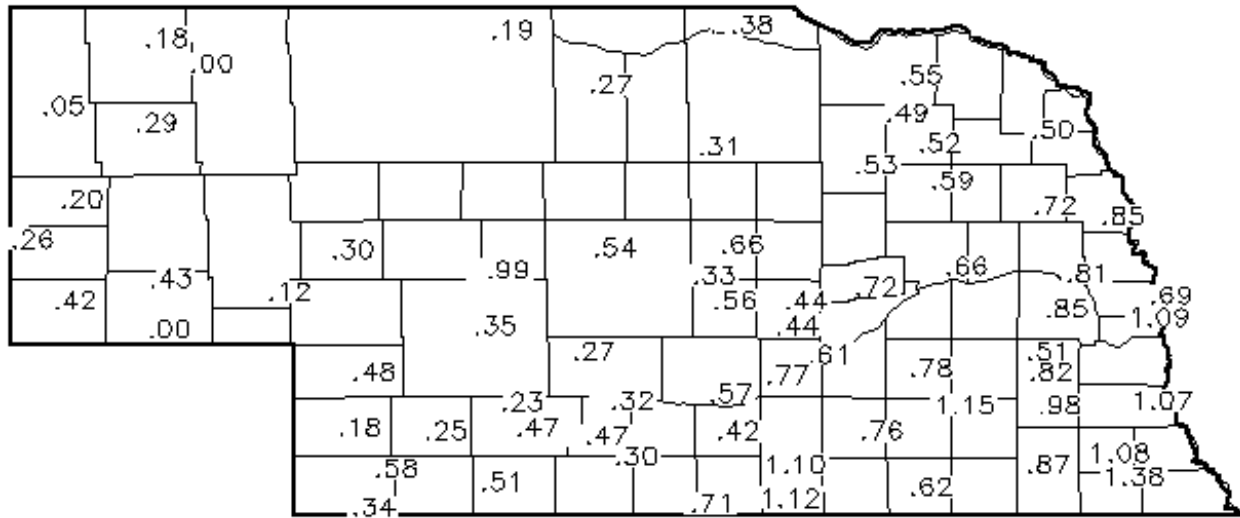
NEMAHA: A few fields remain unharvested due to the heavy snow we received last week. Cows are grazing stalk fields.

SOUTH CENTRAL

HARLAN: The corn harvest is still not complete. Snow of 12" received Tuesday the 8th has caused deep drifts due to the high winds with the snow. I think that most of the corn will be harvested, but the moisture is still near 20%. It is hard to believe that the corn is still that wet being 90 days into corn harvest. Some will not be harvested until 2010. Risk Management is asking for crop evidence for 2009, but some will have to be delayed until a later date. We have had some interest in corn loans again this year.

WEBSTER: Harvest was halted due to the foot of snow that fell Tuesday and Wednesday.

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. December 13, 2009



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – December 13, 2009

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.27	.35	.58	.47	.90	.37	.49	1.01
Total since April 1	20.48	21.78	22.72	22.86	23.75	26.65	22.68	24.66
Normal since April 1	14.51	18.90	23.05	21.04	25.02	17.79	20.65	26.14
Total as % of normal	140%	116%	98%	108%	94%	149%	110%	93%

**Temperature: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, December 13, 2009**

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	41	-20	6	-21
	Scottsbluff	42	-24	7	-20
	Sidney	39	-18	7	-19
NC	Ainsworth	41	-8	9	-18
	Arthur	42	-13	8	-19
	O'Neill	32	-17	7	-20
NE	Concord	32	-11	9	-17
	Elgin	30	-9	9	-18
	West Point	33	-11	11	-16
C	Grand Island	28	-14	6	-20
	Lexington	25	-10	8	-19
	Ord	31	-19	7	-20
EC	Central City	30	-15	7	-20
	Lincoln	33	-6	14	-14
	Mead	32	-7	12	-16
SW	Champion	40	-15	7	-20
	Dickens	33	-11	6	-20
	McCook	30	-8	9	-18
SC	Minden	27	-12	8	-19
	Red Cloud	30	-12	9	-18
	Smithfield	25	-6	8	-19
SE	Beatrice	32	-12	11	-17
	Clay Center	29	-13	8	-19
	Nemaha	35	-7	18	-10

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