



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the month of March 2010, temperatures averaged above normal except for the third week of the month, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Precipitation during March was above normal with most areas receiving one to two inches of moisture except for the Panhandle which was below normal. Soil temperatures at the end of the month were above freezing across the state. Cold and wet conditions have caused higher than normal calf losses for some producers. Cattle have been removed from muddy lots to drier areas where possible. Fieldwork has been limited because of the wet conditions. Some anhydrous applications and hauling of grain have taken place.

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:** At the end of March nearly all snow had melted and was limited to a few areas in the Northeast District. Precipitation for the month was above normal, with the last week receiving the most precipitation. Temperatures averaged above normal for the month, with the first, second, and fourth weeks above normal and the third week below normal.

**Field Crops Report:** **Wheat** conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 8 poor, 35 fair, 51 good, and 6 excellent, below last year's condition of 68 percent good or excellent. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 2 percent very short, 20 short, 74 adequate, and 4 surplus, well below year ago levels of 95 percent adequate or surplus.

**Cattle and Calves** conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 29 fair, 62 good, and 2 excellent, below year ago levels. Calving progressed to 57 percent complete, near year ago, with calf losses mostly average across the state.

## **Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:**

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

### ***NORTHWEST***

**BOX BUTTE:** Wheat is greening up even in concerned areas. The wind erosion that occurred through January was limited due to snow cover. The year appears to be average at this point. No sugar beets planted yet this year.

**SHERIDAN:** Most snow cover is gone except in localized parts of the county and most of the water ponds from the snow melt have soaked in. Once the ground dries out a little more producers will be anxious to get in the fields.

### ***NORTHEAST***

**BOONE:** Cold and wet conditions have led to above average calf losses in the area. Snow is mostly melted and the county received little or no rain this weekend which aided the drying process.

**CEDAR:** The weather conditions have been very favorable for snow melt this year with very little runoff and no flooding. The cow/calf producers are fighting some mud but most have not reported problems with calving. Hay is in tight supply.

**DIXON:** With the snow melt and cool, wet weather over the past three weeks, calving conditions have been poor to very poor for producers. Producers have been busy moving farm-stored grain to avoid losses due to spoilage.

**THURSTON:** Feed lots and calving pastures/lots have been extremely muddy this spring. Feeders are reporting poor gains and higher death losses than normal. Cow-calf herd operators have experienced greater losses than normal due to the mud and cool damp weather. In the past week, farmers have been able to make some progress in harvesting 2009 corn left in the fields over winter. There will be 5-20% loss in most fields. Corn moisture levels have remained high through the winter.

### ***CENTRAL***

**BUFFALO:** Fields are still extremely wet. Some limited stalk shredding and limited NH<sub>3</sub> applications. Some cattle have been moved to grass just to get them out of the mud. Farmers are anxious to get into the fields.

### ***EAST***

**DODGE:** Some corn is still being harvested and taken to town while some are taking a few loads out of the bins because of condition of grain. Producers are getting planters and other spring tillage equipment ready for the field.

**NANCE/BOONE:** Welcome drier conditions the past week. Cattle yards are extremely muddy but sun and breeze has improved conditions the past few days. Cowmen are busy with calving with some experiencing above normal calf losses and scours. Hay supplies are running short.

**SARPY/DOUGLAS:** Some corn harvest occurring but ground is still pretty soft.

### ***SOUTHWEST***

**KEITH/ARTHUR:** Fieldwork is beginning in dryer areas. Not many reports of calf losses this spring. Wheat that was able to be planted last fall is reported to be average.

### ***SOUTH CENTRAL***

**FURNAS:** Wet conditions have complicated calving situations and have grain producers anxious about field prep and planting.

**HARLAN:** The wheat is starting to come out of dormancy and the earlier planted wheat looks very good. The wheat planted after corn or soybean harvest is greening, but far behind the summer fallow wheat.

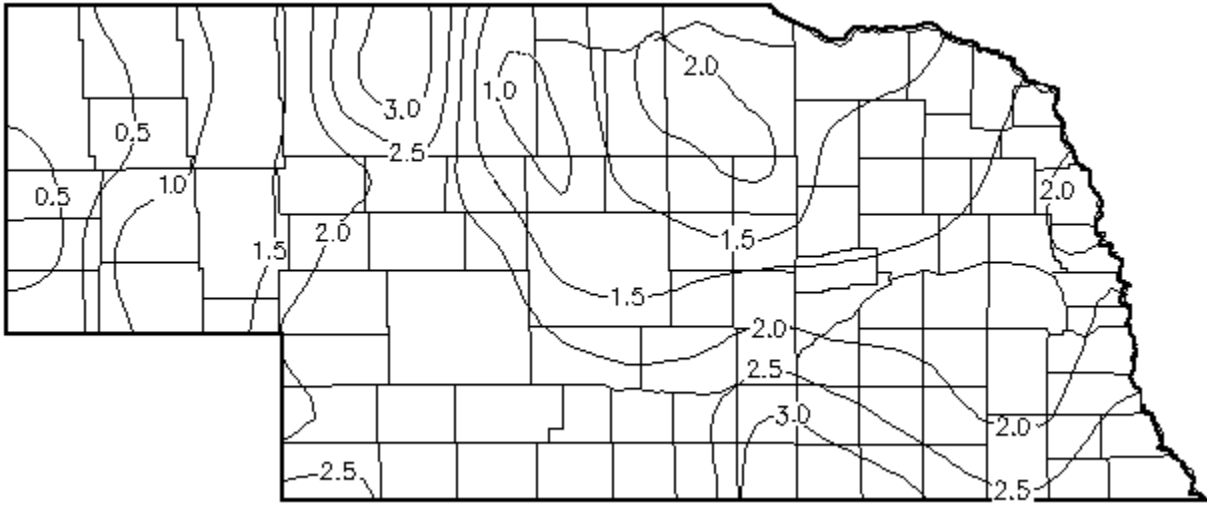
**PHELPS:** Wet, cool weather has caused some calf loss because of sickness. Most producers are anxious to start fieldwork. Most areas are still wet which will delay planting preparations. Rangeland is in good condition and beginning to show green.

### ***SOUTHEAST***

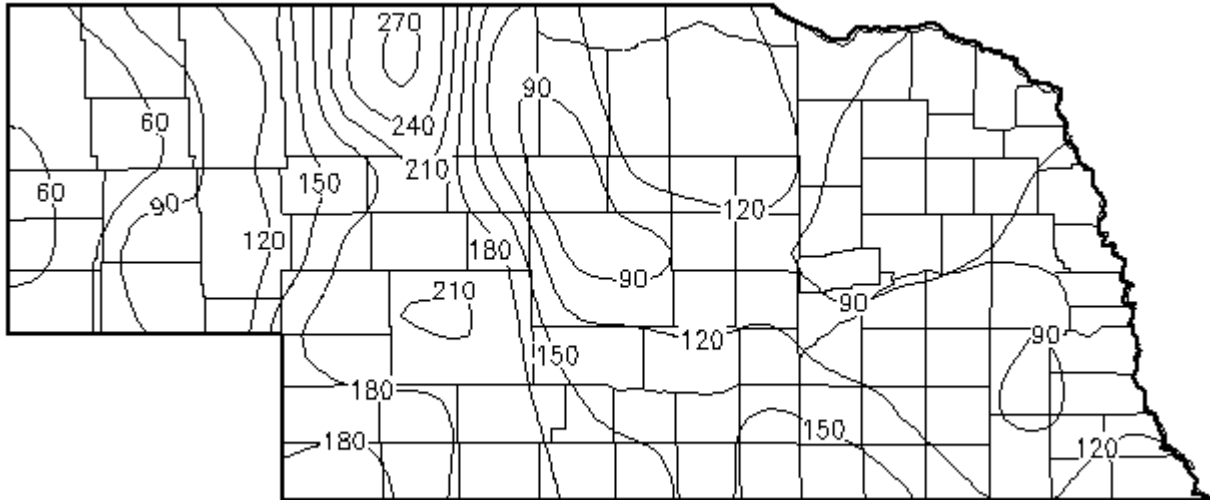
**FILLMORE:** Things were finally starting to dry up, but then Fillmore County received rainfall (around .75") Saturday which will continue to delay fieldwork. Increased calving losses reported due to mud in calving areas.

**GAGE:** Delayed fieldwork becoming a concern.

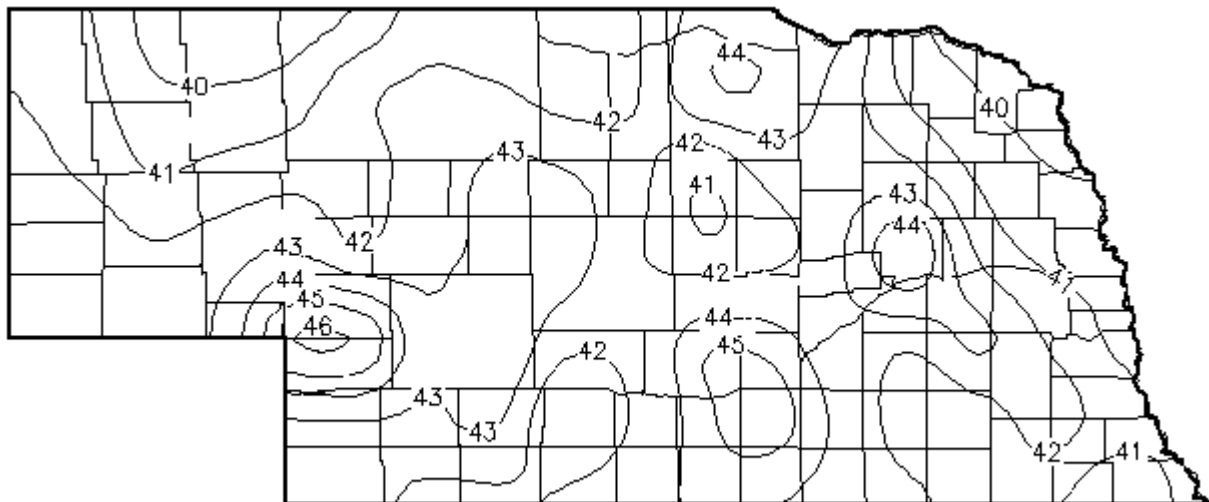
**PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF MARCH 2010<sup>1</sup>**



**PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR MARCH 2010<sup>1</sup>**



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL  
MARCH 22, 2010 – MARCH 28, 2010<sup>1</sup>**



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