



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Issue NE-CW 0511

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of January 2011, temperatures averaged below normal with above normal precipitation across the eastern two-thirds of the state, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Precipitation was light during January across the Panhandle and southwest with less than .5 inch recorded. Elsewhere, one to one and a half inches were common, bringing much needed moisture. At the end of the month, snow depth was limited across the western third of the State, while eastern counties averaged three to six inches of snow cover. Hauling grain to market and livestock care were the main activities during the month. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels. Producers have started supplemental feeding of cattle due to snow cover with feed supplies adequate. Cattle are in good condition with the first calves of the season being born.

Weather Summary: Above normal precipitation fell during January across most of the state. Average snow depth at the end of January averaged 3.9 inches statewide. By region, snow depth was the lightest in the Panhandle and southwest counties and increased in depth across the state. Temperatures averaged above normal at the beginning of the month while below normal in the middle and end of the month. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 27 degrees in the extreme northeast to 33 degrees in some southwestern counties.

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions statewide rated 2 percent very poor, 13 poor, 44 fair, 36 good, and 5 excellent, below last year. Hay and forage supplies rated 0 percent very short, 3 short, 95 adequate, and 2 surplus, above a year ago.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Cattle and Calves condition rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 13 fair, 79 good, and 7 excellent, above last year.

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

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

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Forecast sub zero temperatures this next week will be hard on livestock.

CEDAR: Cold and snow cover the past 30 days is the norm, resulting in cattle needing additional feed, blocked roads and extra time and expense moving snow.

DIXON: Early calving and some lambing is underway. Farm-stored grain continues to be moved to markets. Producers are looking ahead to spring field preparations and seeding.

KNOX: Snow cover has caused most cattle producers to feed greater than normal supplemental feed. Icy roads have delayed marketing of some grain. Early calving has started.

THURSTON: Excess snow, blizzard conditions, ice storms, power outages, and cold weather have all taken their toll on livestock.

CENTRAL

BUFFALO: A few new calves on the ground. Calving weather typical for this time of year, cold, warm, wet, snowy, nice. Most farmers nervously optimistic about the coming crop season.

SHERMAN: Snow fall within the past month is reported to have 1 1/2 inches of moisture in it. Recent temperatures this week have melted most of it, except for drifts and plowed snow.

EAST CENTRAL

DODGE: Several days of above freezing weather has melted away quite a bit of the snow. Grain continues to be hauled to the elevators. Cold weather has slowed gains for the beef cattle and supplemental feeding by cow/calf operations continues because of heavy snow cover in the fields.

DOUGLAS: Big snow and now the big thaw. The drought is over for awhile.

MERRICK: The livestock were able to glean from corn stalks up until the January snow which meant farmers did not have to feed hay as early as some years. We need moisture as the fall was extremely dry. We have very few cows calving yet.

NANCE: Much of the snow has melted over the past week and any snow remaining is in drifts.

YORK: Much of our snow has melted the past couple of days.

SOUTH CENTRAL

ADAMS: Adams County has had measurable snowfall but there is very little moisture content. Producers are feeding cattle that are in stalks due to snow cover.

FRANKLIN: Cannot easily tell the conditions of the wheat. The prediction around the county is that the wheat is dry and will be bad because of the lack of rainfall and moisture.

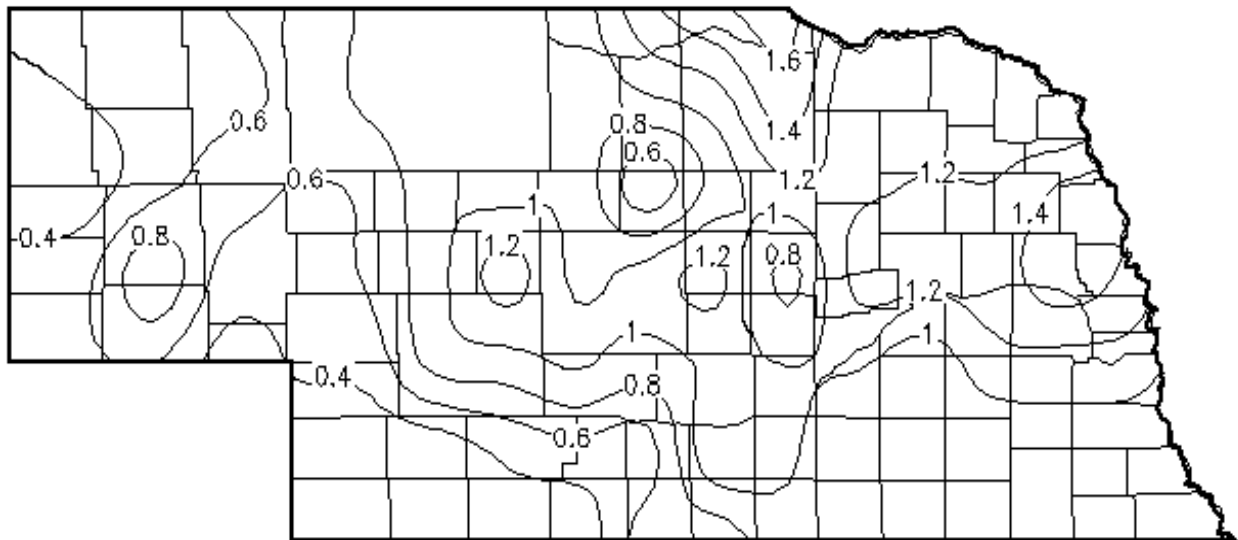
HARLAN: It is amazing how rapidly it has changed since a week ago. On Jan. 27th it was 54 degrees outside, with some wind so even the large piles of snow are shrinking. There doesn't appear to be much frost in the ground in most locations. Weather conditions have improved the week. Calving has started for some producers.

WEBSTER: The snow is nearly gone now but the bitter cold is hanging in there making it tough on the new calves being born. Grains are being hauled in to fulfill contracts.

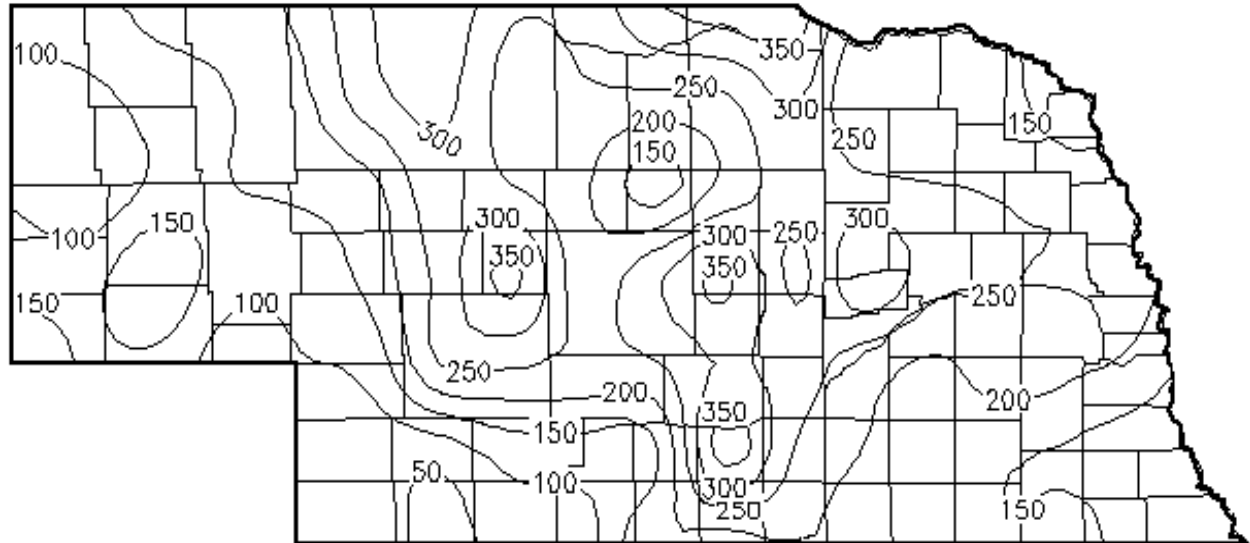
SOUTHEAST

THAYER: Wheat conditions are questionable at this time. Eight to twelve inches of snow have fallen during the month.

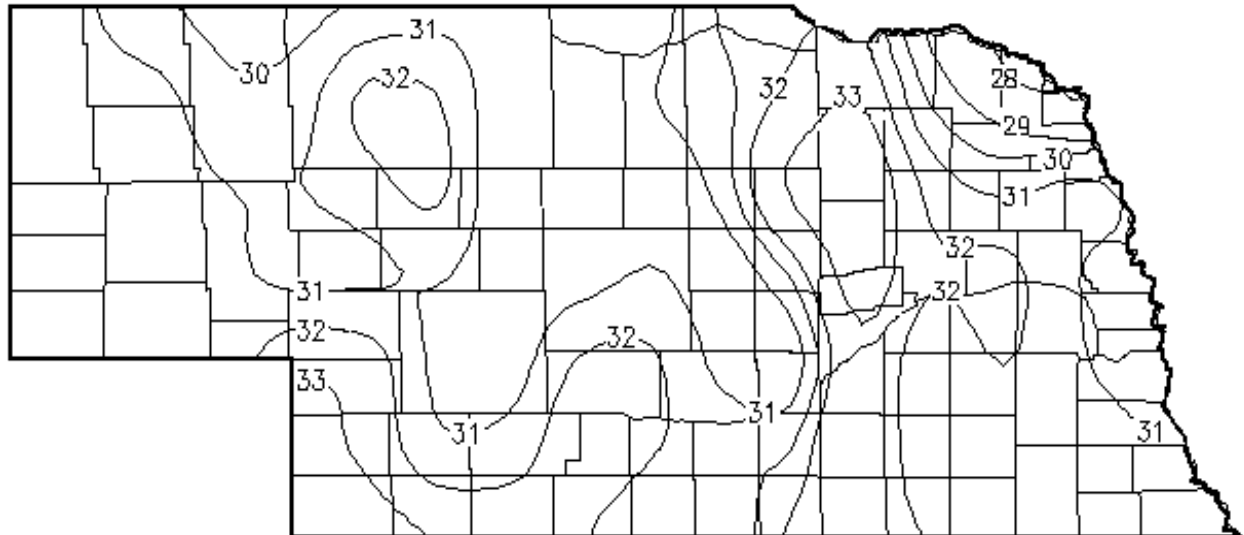
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2011¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 2011¹



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
JANUARY 24, 2011 – JANUARY 30, 2011¹**



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