



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Issue NE-CW1412

Released April 2, 2012

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending April 1, 2012, high winds coupled with temperatures well above normal and little precipitation caused soil moisture levels to be below previous year and 5 year averages, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. The first fields of corn have been planted, but most producers were holding off to limit chances of freeze damage. Planting of oats was off to a good start with 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Producers have been applying fertilizer, performing spring tillage, and getting machinery ready to plant. Soil temperatures have climbed into the mid 50's to low 60's compared to upper 30's to mid 40's last year. Spring calving was near three-fourths complete with favorable conditions having aided in calf losses to be well below average.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged 18 degrees above normal across the state. Highs reached the low 90's in the east and lows dipped to just below freezing in the Panhandle. Limited or no precipitation was recorded across most of the state. However, isolated pockets in South Central and extreme Southeast Nebraska received over one inch.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending April 1, 2012**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	16	9	18	6
Short	44	39	27	17
Adequate	40	52	51	70
Surplus	0	0	4	7
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	13	9	19	9
Short	42	44	28	19
Adequate	45	47	51	68
Surplus	0	0	2	4
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.5	3.5	3.2	3.5

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 4 poor, 33 fair, 56 good, and 7 excellent, well above last year's 36 percent good to excellent.

The first fields of corn were being planted in the eastern third of the state.

Oats planted were at 38 percent, well ahead of last year's 14 and 13 average.

**Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending April 1, 2012**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Corn Planted	1		0	0
Oats Planted	38		14	13

**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 1, 2012**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	0	4	33	56	7

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Cattle and calf condition rated 0 percent very poor, 0 poor, 8 fair, 77 good, and 15 excellent. Spring calving was 73 percent complete. Calf losses rated 32 percent below average, 67 average, and 1 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)*

