



Nebraska Weather and Crops

100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 437-5541 · (402) 437-5547 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov



Issue NE-CW0813

Released February 25, 2013

Agricultural Summary: For the month of February 2013, snow fall across the eastern two thirds of the state brought much needed moisture to drought impacted areas, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Snow accumulations were heaviest in the Southwest and South Central Districts with some areas exceeding 12 inches of snow. However, the Panhandle received only limited amounts of precipitation for the month. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels with most of the crop rated fair to poor. Cattle are in mostly good condition with calving underway. Cattle made good use of stalks until snow fell during the third week of the month, causing producers to rely on feed stocks.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged 1 degree below normal across the southern Panhandle and portions of the southeast. Most of the remainder of the state was 1-3 degrees above normal. Precipitation was above normal in the central third of the state while the western and eastern thirds were mostly below normal. Snow depth averaged 6 inches across the state with 9-10 inches common in Southwestern and South Central Districts. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 28 to 33 degrees.

Field Crops Report: **Wheat** conditions statewide rated 14 percent very poor, 36 poor, 38 fair, 12 good, and 0 excellent, well below last year. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 11 percent very short, 38 short, 51 adequate and 0 surplus, well below year ago levels.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 16 fair, 78 good, and 4 excellent, below last year. Cows that have calved since January 1, were 18 percent.

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:

NORTHWEST

SCOTTSBLUFF/MORRILL: Dry conditions continue in the area. Snow is missing us to the east.

NORTHEAST

DIXON: Producers will be using more feed stocks following last week's snow storm. In general, conditions remain mild and favorable for livestock. Any form of moisture is welcome at this point in time.

KNOX: Calving is just starting. There is very little frost in the ground.

CENTRAL

BUFFALO: It has been a favorable winter for livestock, especially cow-calf herds. In general, moderate to warm weather and lack of snow have not degraded feed in stalk fields. The snow on Feb. 22-21 was only the second real snow event in our area. However, it has been very unfavorable for moisture needed by the wheat fields, pastures and dryland crop areas as these remain extremely dry.

EAST CENTRAL

DODGE: Wheat conditions declined a bit. Cattle continue to graze stalks until the snow. Calving is going well.

DOUGLAS: Big snow and we will take a lot of rain.

POLK: A snowstorm brought 6-7 inches of snow to the area.

SOUTHWEST

CHASE: The snow that was received was appreciated by the producers in the area. This small amount of snow does not get us out of the severe drought that we are in.

FRONTIER: Ten to twelve inches of snow received this past week provided much needed moisture.

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: On February 21st, we received much needed moisture. Most of the Hayes and Hitchcock Counties received around 10-15 inches of snow. Wheat fields are not looking good at all, with fields blowing. If we do not receive moisture or good weather this spring so that grass does not grow, feed will be short.

RED WILLOW: Received 10-12 inches of snow this past week, providing some much needed moisture.

SOUTH CENTRAL

FRANKLIN: Difficult calving conditions over the weekend with 14 inches of snow and bitter cold nights. So far I believe available feed is adequate.

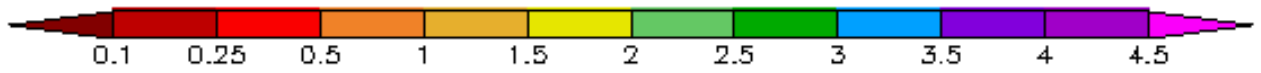
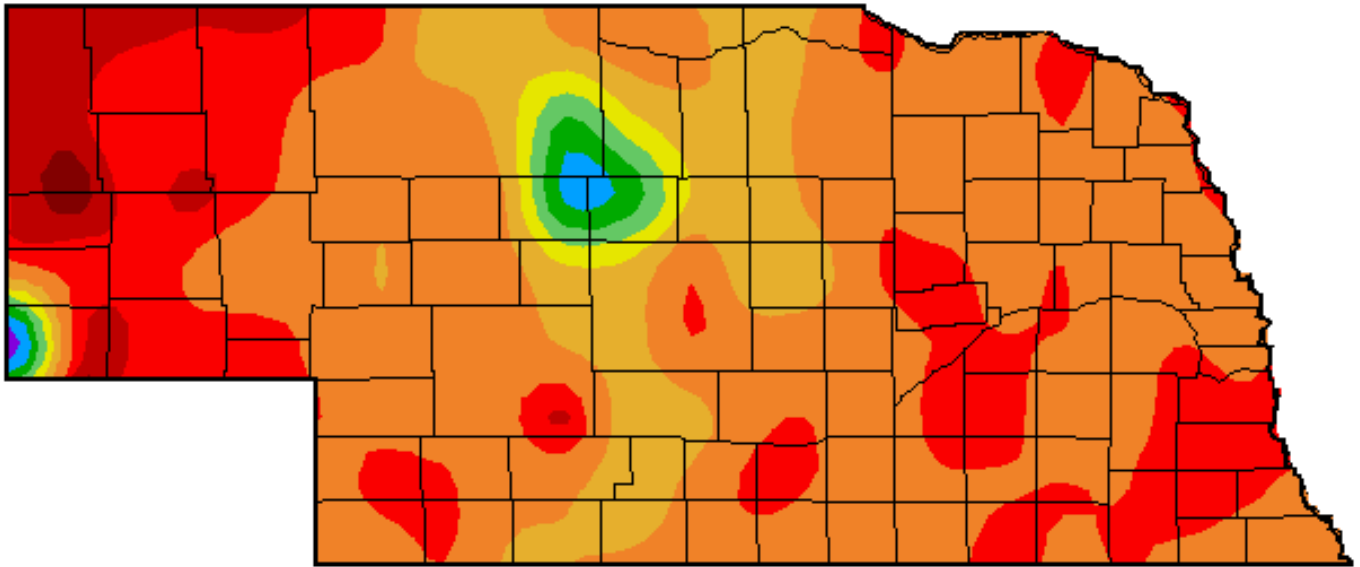
PHELPS: The county received 10 to 12 inches of snow on Feb 20 and 21. The moisture was very welcome. Calving has just begun in the area. Feed supplies remain adequate at the present time. With the large amount of snow this could change quickly.

SOUTHEAST

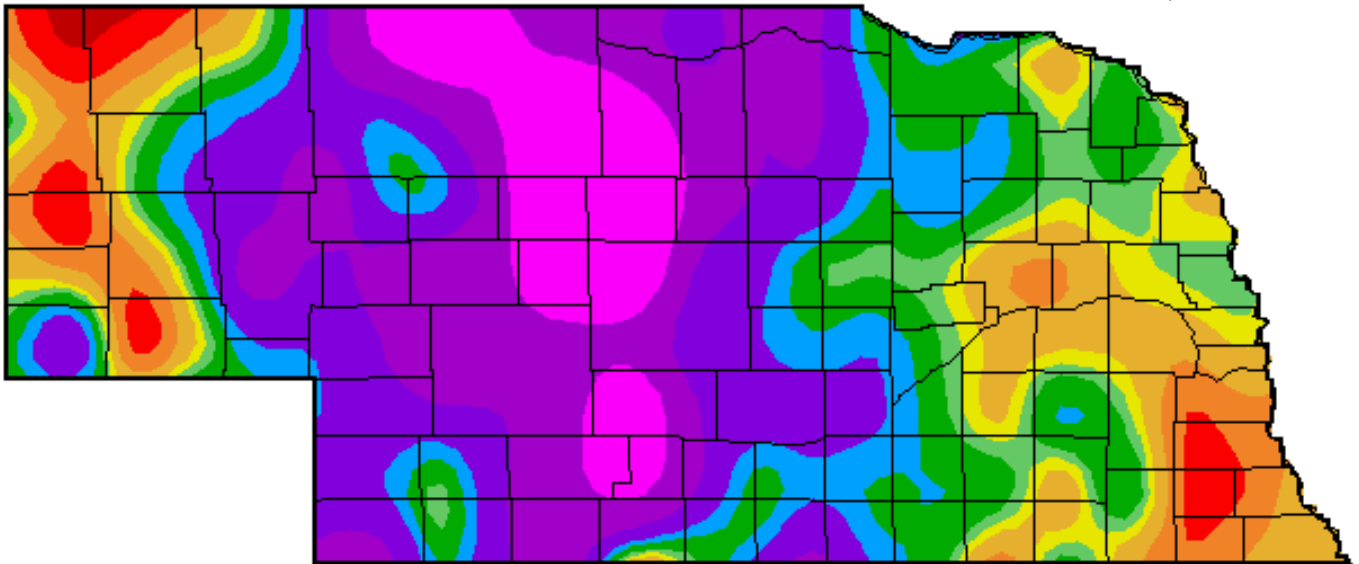
GAGE: Some questions about producing annual forage crops to supplement feed and or pasture.

JOHNSON: Nice to get the much needed moisture. Calving is just getting started. Activities include hauling grain and tending to livestock.

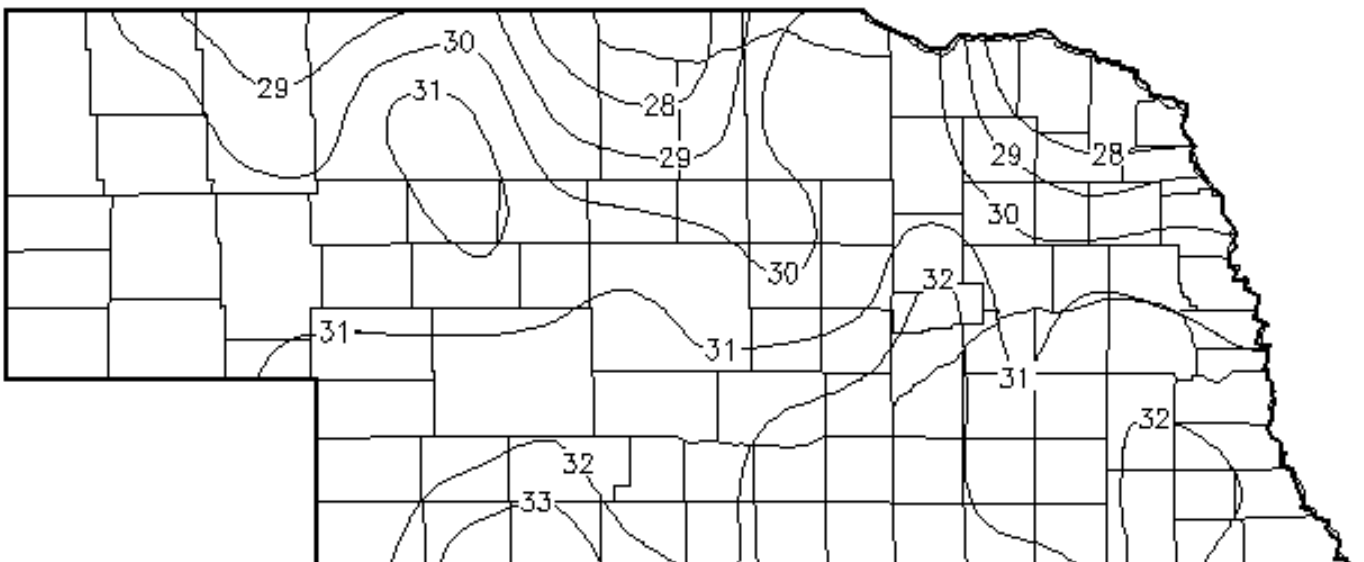
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FEBRUARY 1 –FEBRUARY 24, 2013¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR FEBRUARY 1 –FEBRUARY 24, 2013¹



SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
FEBRUARY 18, 2013 – FEBRUARY 24, 2013¹



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