

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS



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NEBRASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

For Week Ending April 15, 2001

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GENERAL: Statewide, rainfall combined with snow in the western and north central counties continued to limit fieldwork activities, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Power outages were reported mid-week as high winds and wet snow brought down power lines. With only 1.6 days suitable last week for spring tillage and planting operations, producers were eagerly awaiting drier field conditions.

Topsoil moisture rated mostly adequate while subsoil moisture rated mostly short to adequate. Activities included planter preparations and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center.

WEATHER: Temperatures last week averaged three degrees below normals in the west while the east was mostly two degrees above normals. Precipitation occurred statewide in the form of rain, hail, and snow with amounts ranging up to 2.06 inches of rain in Grand Island.

CROPS: Winter Wheat crop rated 1% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 47% good, and 7% excellent. About 2% of the crop had jointed, this compared with 13% last year and 3% for the five-year average. Corn planting made a very limited start in a few eastern and southern counties. Last year at this time, 3% had been planted with the average at 1%. Oat planting progressed to 20% sown to date. This compares with 90% last year and 56% for the five-year average. Two percent had emerged by Sunday, well behind last year at 36% and average at 18%. Hay and forage supplies were below year ago levels and continue to be drawn down while producers wait for pasture growth before moving cattle to grazing areas.

Pasture and range conditions were rated at 11% very poor, 18% poor, 41% fair, 28% good, and 2% excellent. Cattle and calves condition rated 3% very poor, 11% poor, 40% fair, 41% good, and 5% excellent. Calving since January 1 has reached 84% statewide. The wet, muddy conditions have increased calf losses and slowed gain of fat cattle. Supplemental feeding of cattle continues as pastures need additional time for proper spring growth.

PROGRESS AND CONDITIONS, NEBRASKA, AS OF APRIL 15, 2001

ITEM	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS									STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
PERCENT												
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	2.6	.5	1.1	1.5	1.9	2.7	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.6	6.8	
Hay and Forage Supplies	- Very short											
	0	23	16	44	9	31	24	14	21	21	n/a	
	- Short											
	33	29	33	31	44	52	48	49	38	37	n/a	
	- Adequate											
	67	47	50	24	47	11	28	37	40	41	n/a	
	- Surplus											
	0	1	1	1	0	6	0	0	1	1	n/a	
Topsoil Moisture	- Very short											
	0	0	0	5	0	6	0	0	1	2	33	
	- Short											
	5	1	3	6	3	10	7	4	4	12	42	
	- Adequate											
	94	83	83	83	84	68	79	94	84	80	25	
	- Surplus											
	1	16	14	6	13	16	14	2	11	6	0	
Subsoil Moisture-	- Very Short											
	2	2	2	16	8	9	11	6	6	10	48	
	- Short											
	39	20	34	31	31	52	21	51	34	41	35	
	- Adequate											
	59	72	62	53	60	39	68	41	58	48	17	
	- Surplus											
	0	6	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	

n/a = not available.

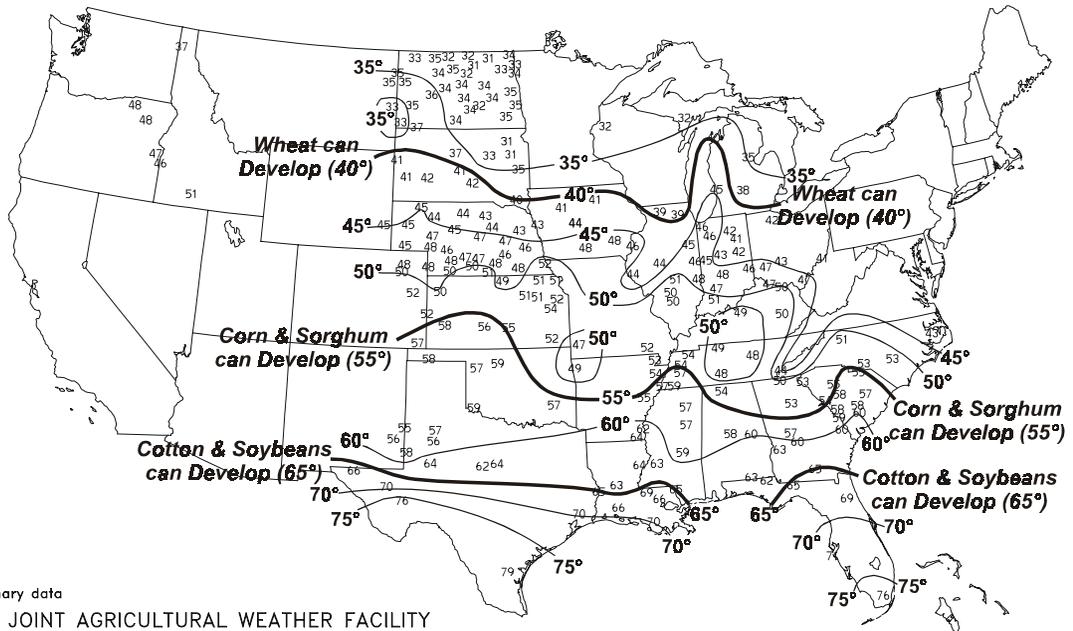
TEMPERATURE DATA, NEBRASKA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2001

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	
	Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	63	26	44	---
	Scottsbluff	61	28	42	-3
	Sidney	60	22	42	---
NC	Valentine	72	30	48	+3
NE	Norfolk	70	30	49	+1
	Sioux City	69	32	50	+2
CEN	Grand Island	73	37	51	+2
	Ord	69	32	48	---
EC	Lincoln	84	30	53	+3
	Omaha	74	37	53	+4
SW	Imperial	67	30	46	---
	North Platte	64	31	45	-2

Source: National Weather Service, Valley, NE.

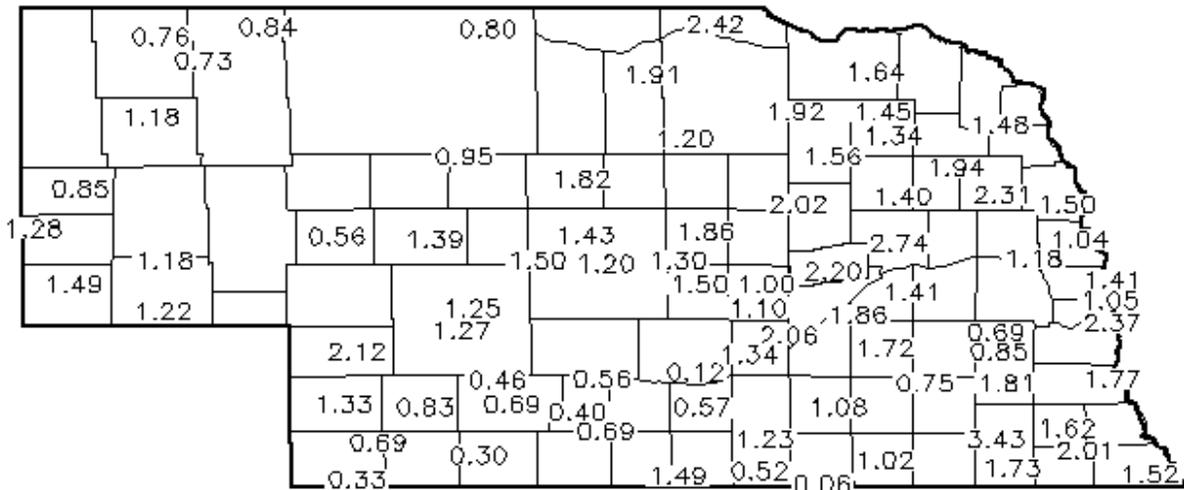
Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

APR 1 - 7, 2001



Based on preliminary data
 NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
 Supplemental data provided by High Plains Regional Climate Center

PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2001



Item	Precipitation, Nebraska, April 1 - April 15, 2001							
	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1.06	1.50	1.55	1.42	1.48	.87	.71	1.34
Total since April 1	1.65	3.10	2.66	3.24	1.97	1.68	1.73	1.66
Normal since April 1	.83	1.00	1.20	1.16	1.31	.89	.99	1.32
Total as % of normal	201%	309%	223%	282%	151%	186%	176%	123%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

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