



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending December 20, 2009, corn harvest was limited due to snow cover and ice, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Harvest progress was slow, with only three days suitable for field work during the week. High grain moisture levels continue to be bothersome.

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

Weather Summary: Depth of snow at the end of the third week of December averaged five inches across the state. The Southeast and South Central Districts reported the largest amount of snow cover at nearly 8 inches while the Southwest and Panhandle averaged two inches or less. Temperatures were four degrees below normal for the week and ranged from the 50's for highs to lows of 13 below zero. No significant precipitation was recorded.

Field Crops Report: Corn harvested was 93 percent complete. Sorghum harvest was 98 percent complete.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending December 20, 2009

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year ¹	Aver-
				age ¹
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Harvested	93	91		
Sorghum Harvested	98	94		

¹ Data not available

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

NORTHWEST

BOX BUTTE: No new snow on ground - remains of previous storms. Bare ground on approximately half of the wheat fields. It is slowly melting away with the warmer temperatures. October snowfall was in the 45 inch area - can't wait for winter.
CHEYENNE/BANNER/KIMBALL: Much of the proso millet is swathed and laying on the ground under the snow. It will probably not be harvested now until late winter or early spring.
SCOTTSBLUFF/MORRILL: Growers were able to get some corn in last week. Many combined in the morning while the ground was frozen and had to quit when the snow melted in the afternoon.

NORTHEAST

ANTELOPE: Harvest has been affected by snow in the field.
CEDAR: Slow going on completing harvest. Cold temps, snow, and ice have made for a long and difficult harvest of corn, reports of 20 percent or higher moisture in the corn, to wet to bin and elevators have turned back corn with the snow/ice. Producer with dryer are the best off, but cold temps and ice in the corn have slowed them down too.
DIXON: Not all the crop will be harvested because of drifted snow but they are chipping away at it.
DIXON: Corn harvest continues to be drawn out for a number of producers in both counties. Some expect to continue into January, weather permitting. Livestock on corn stubble continue to find feed in the fields that are available.
KNOX: Corn harvest creeps along. Elevators are only accepting wet grain as they can dry. Cattle are being put out to stalks.
THURSTON: Progress was made this past week in completing the corn harvest. Grain storage and moisture continue to be problems. Elevators are taking corn as rapidly as possible and are storing much of it on the ground hoping to get it dried and sold before spring thaws.

EAST CENTRAL

CASS: Harvest is over until the weather changes. Some of these fields might be here next spring to be harvested.
DODGE: Some were trying to harvest corn Thursday and Friday and if no moisture comes in this weekend they will get what they can. Outside rows are over the ears with snow.
DOUGLAS: Still cold and lots of snow. Harvest is still happening very slowly.
WASHINGTON: Still a fair amount of corn left to be harvested. Most producers are struggling with ice hampering attempts to complete corn harvest.

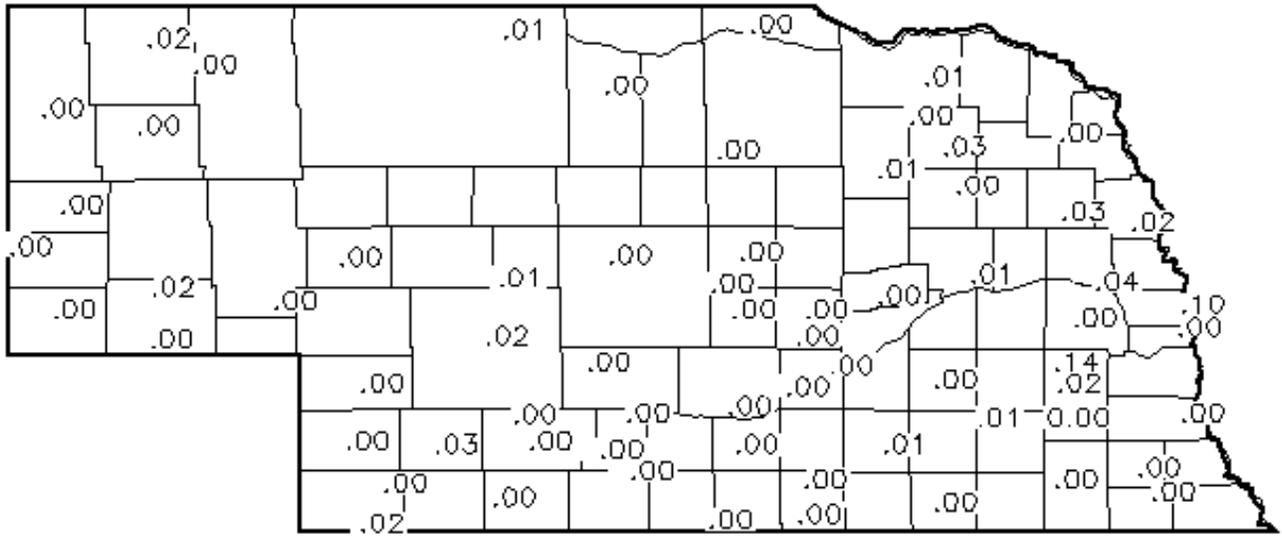
SOUTH CENTRAL

LINCOLN: We have made a little progress in finishing some fields this week. There are still several fields that have not had a combine in them.
HARLAN: Not really suitable for field work, but those with corn in the field did all possible to harvest.
KEARNEY: A few producers are still harvesting their 2009 corn crop.
PHELPS: Some producers were able to return to the field to continue harvest. Snow is hampering the progress and warmer weather is now making the stalks tough and difficult to feed through the machine.
WEBSTER: Basically no progress this week and not sure when the last will be harvested due to depth of snow and a new front coming in this week.

SOUTHEAST

GAGE: Snow cover forcing extra feeding for beef cows and more rapid weathering of stalks.
NEMAHA: There are still a few fields in the area unable to be harvested due to snow drifts. Cattle are still out in the stalk fields grazing.

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. December 20, 2009



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – December 20, 2009

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.00	.00	.01	.00	.04	.00	.00	.00
Total since April 1	20.51	21.78	22.77	22.89	23.73	26.66	22.68	24.67
Normal since April 1	14.60	19.01	23.23	21.18	25.21	17.88	20.79	26.37
Total as % of normal	140%	115%	97%	107%	94%	149%	109%	93%

**Temperature: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, December 20, 2009**

	Station	Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	47	-9	25	0
	Scottsbluff	51	-11	24	-1
	Sidney	48	-7	27	+2
NC	Ainsworth	44	-8	24	-1
	Arthur	49	-11	25	+1
	O'Neill	41	-9	19	-6
NE	Concord	31	-10	14	-10
	Elgin	37	-6	18	-7
	West Point	34	-5	18	-7
C	Grand Island	39	-13	18	-7
	Lexington	45	-10	22	-3
	Ord	42	-12	19	-6
EC	Central City	39	-12	18	-7
	Lincoln	39	-1	21	-5
	Mead	35	-7	18	-8
SW	Champion	53	-8	27	+2
	Dickens	45	-8	23	-2
	McCook	52	-7	25	0
SC	Minden	43	-13	20	-5
	Red Cloud	42	-10	19	-6
	Smithfield	44	-9	23	-2
SE	Beatrice	39	-8	19	-7
	Clay Center	42	-7	18	-7
	Nemaha	40	-2	23	-3

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