

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
and  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. Agr. & Inspection  
Division of Agr'l. Statistics  
and  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 4-24-51 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 4-23-51

WEATHER The week was cold and windy, except for moderate temperatures on the 18th. Dry weather prevailed until Friday, when heavy rains fell over the eastern and most of the south-central portions of the state, diminishing to moderate over most of the central and southwestern portions of the state. Moderate snow fell over the northern half of the Panhandle, but only light snow or freezing drizzle occurred over the southern half and the extreme southwestern corner of the state.

CROPS Wheat was damaged badly by the dry autumn and winter weather says A. E. Anderson after making the first field inspection trip of the year. While the damage is state-wide, it increases in severity westward from Highway 81. While there are several factors contributing to this damage, the underlying cause was the severe drouth and warm weather in January and February that apparently caused wheat to lose some of its winter hardiness which followed by low temperatures killed the underground crown of the plant.

A review of the weekly weather maps show that the Panhandle was dry every week since the third week in September until the weeks ending April 6 and 13 and south-western Nebraska was dry except for a little moisture received for the weeks ending February 23 and March 2. South-central Nebraska was dry since the week ending Oct. 6 until the week ending March 30 except for a little for the weeks ending January 5 and February 16.

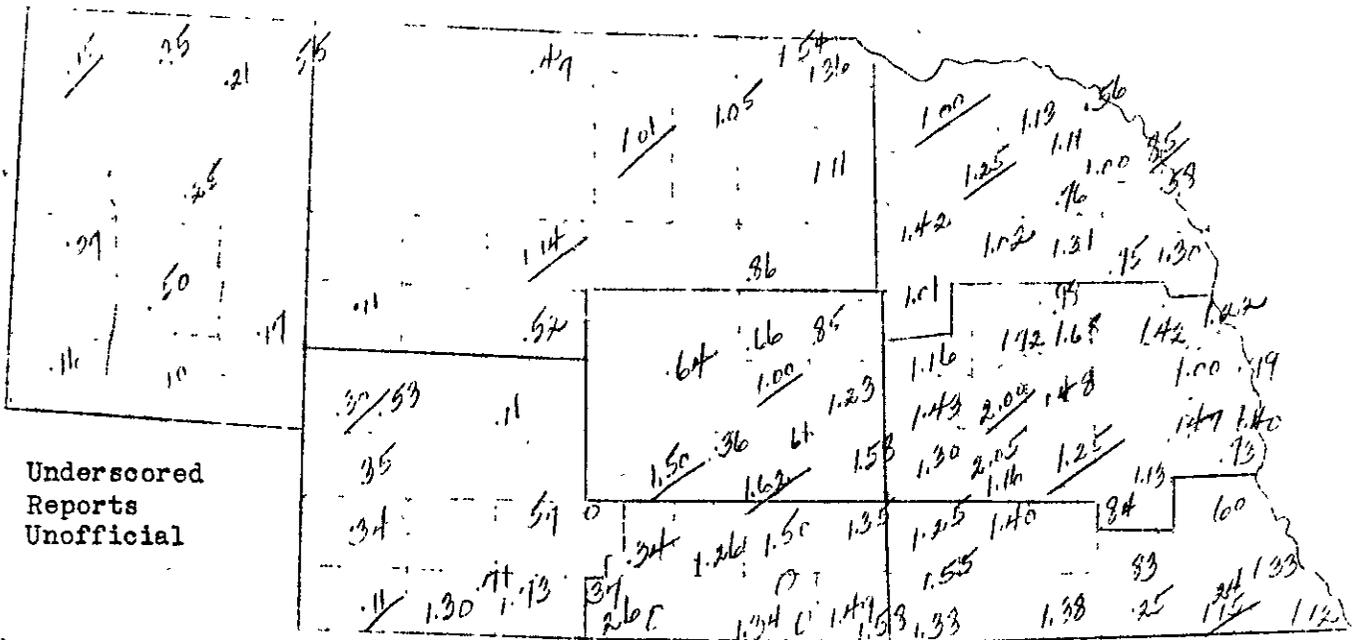
This dry situation was greatly aggravated by the fact that most wheat had made luxurious growth due to favorable soil moisture situation in the early autumn. Such growth removed the surface moisture and none was received to replenish it. Therefore, the soil was loose and permeable to the cold air, which following the loss of some of the plants' winter hardiness, made the wheat vulnerable to injury from freezing. Where the soil had more moisture and was more compact, the damage was minimized.

In some areas where the loss was severe there was a strip of live wheat along the snow fence that held the snow giving the wheat the necessary moisture. Rows of wheat on back furrows that were higher with looser soil showed more severe damage. Sandy soil that did not receive any moisture and wheat sown on newly broken sod with loose soil showed the most severe winter-kill. Sandy soil in areas that had received moisture showed much less winter-kill than dry sandy soil. Other factors contributing to the loss were high winds, insects, time of planting and diseases such as orange-leaf rust. While the latter reduces vitality it may have been a blessing in disguise, in that it reduced the moisture requirements. In the east where moisture was more nearly ample, the loss of winter hardiness followed by temperatures zero and below contributed mostly to the damage.

Some abandonment was apparent by the middle of April in the way of reseeded damaged strips in spots in southern Nebraska, while in southern Kimball county entire fields were reseeded. It is a little early to get definite information on abandonment because so much of the wheat with thin stands may yet come as roots are emerging from much of this damaged wheat. Moisture and warmth may yet save enough wheat in western Nebraska to produce a fair crop, since wheat stools much better in that area. Regardless, a severe damage is apparent and unfortunately the western third of the state received very little from last week's rain. Continuation of dry, cold, unfavorable weather will increase the loss.

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About 80% of the oats and 62% of the barley were seeded by the close of the past week. Heavy rains at the close of the week delayed oats seeding in eastern Nebraska. Barley and sorghum may replace some of the abandoned winter wheat in the western two-thirds of the state. It isn't likely that all of the intended oats will be seeded and may be replaced by corn and soybeans. Winter wheat condition has declined each week this month while wild hay and pasture are slow. Some old alfalfa was damaged by the dry winter and some fall seeded alfalfa winter-killed.

Precipitation Map for Week Ending April 20, 1951



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (For 24 hours ending in a.m.)

		17th		18th		19th		20th		21st		22nd		23rd	
		Max	Min												
NW	Chadron	59	25	72	30	58	39	59	20	29	22	32	13	55	23
	Scottsbluff	60	28	72	35	62	38	69	23	34	25	35	20	56	32
	Sidney	58	27	72	34	60	37	69	22	38	19	53	13	53	37
N-C	Burwell	--	29	--	37	54	33	52	35	41	31	39	25	54	33
	Valentine	52	33	69	37	50	34	56	24	38	25	34	22	52	35
NE	Norfolk	46	26	72	38	52	29	52	37	44	37	43	28	49	28
	Sioux City	48	26	70	41	53	26	52	38	54	42	45	29	50	28
Gen	Grand Island	50	32	76	40	57	32	57	38	45	35	46	28	53	38
E-C	Lincoln	49	34	70	41	61	33	58	39	51	42	46	32	53	38
	Omaha	48	32	68	40	61	33	57	41	52	45	49	33	61	35
SW	North Platte	55	27	75	37	59	31	61	37	47	28	37	25	54	36

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 1951

Eastern Division		Eastern Div., Cont'd.		Central Division		Western Division	
Albion	1.12	Hastings	1.93	Broken Bow	.64	Alliance	.25
Ashland	1.47	Lincoln	1.36	Burwell	.86	Chadron	.35
Auburn	1.33	Norfolk	1.04	Cambridge	.37	Culbertson	.71
Beatrice	1.06	Oakdale	1.50	Holdrege	1.26	Imperial	.18
Columbus	2.00	Omaha	1.40	North Loup	.85	Kimball	.16
Fairbury	1.53	Red Cloud	1.49	North Platte	.11	Scottsbluff	.37
Fairmont	1.47	St. Paul	1.24	O'Neill	1.13	Sidney	.07
Falls City	1.56	Tekamah	1.37	Ravenna	.61		
Fremont	1.42	Wakefield	1.00	Valentine	.57		
Grand Island	1.61	York	2.19				
Hartington	1.15						
Average this week		1.44		0.71		0.29	
Total since April 1		2.32		1.29		1.00	
Normal since April 1		1.77		1.66		1.45	

(Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture)