

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

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

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 12-26-51 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 12-24-51

WEATHER The week was very cold, with sub-zero temperatures on several days over most of the state. Light snow fell at several stations, with little wind to cause drifting.

CROPS The cold, stormy weather brought corn picking to a standstill last week. All but 12% of the crop had been harvested by the middle of December. Part of the unhusked corn may be left in the fields until spring. Northeast Nebraska, where snow averages about 9 inches in depth, had 14% of the corn left in fields. Knox county reports 16 inches of snow on the ground. The snow is nearly as deep in a number of the central counties, where 20% of the corn remains unhusked; and a number of the east central counties also have a heavy depth of snow.

Some farmers have been feeding or shelling out the center portion of the large round ricks of corn. This leaves the perimeter standing up vertically to dry out. The cold, freezing weather has checked deterioration.

Snow has covered the wheat throughout the state but a number of counties report that snow has blown off the fields in spots exposing the wheat except in the drill row. Generally, the crop went into the winter in good shape and snow checked freezing of the soil on part of the wheat so the soil should be able to absorb water from the snow as it melts.

Some shortage of farm labor is reported and there is considerable apprehension that the farm labor supply will be very short next spring when the demand increases. Marketing of potatoes in western Nebraska has slowed down due to the cold weather and there is a tendency to hold for maximum prices.

LIVESTOCK The continued cold, stormy weather has been vere severe on livestock, particularly in the north central and northeastern portions of the state. Several counties report side roads are blocked. Snow has covered some windrowed hay in the Sandhills. Heavy snow has prevented pasturing of corn stalk fields, thereby increasing the demand for hay. While the hay crop is large, the quality of much of it is very poor and some counties report difficulty in finding an ample supply of good hay. One county reports alfalfa prices ranging from \$12.00 to \$35.00 a ton depending on quality. Some counties in western Nebraska have shipped considerable hay to Colorado, New Mexico and Texas and some fear that a shortage may develop before spring, if the winter continues cold and stormy.

A few counties report an increasing interest in sheep and in production of Grade A milk. There is some disappointment in the drop in the price of eggs. The December 1 pig survey indicated a reduction of 14% in the 1952 spring pig crop. A much larger quantity of corn is required and with the rapid disappearance, it appears there may be a shortage of corn before the next crop is produced. A few counties report spring farrowings below intentions.

Weather Bureau Telegraphic Report of Precipitation for Week Ending December 24, 1951

Eastern Division		Central Division		Western Division	
Grand Island	.01	Burwell	--	Chadron	.02
Lincoln	.13	Lexington	.02	Imperial	.01
Norfolk	.03	North Platte	.05	Scottsbluff	.10
Omaha	.32	Valentine	.07	Sidney	.18
Sioux City	0				

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