

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 4/12/49 11:00 a.m.

Week Ending 4/11/49

WEATHER Warm sunny weather prevailed until the week-end, when a change to cooler weather, with light to moderate rains set in, except that rains were locally heavy over the southeastern portion of the state.

CROPS Winter wheat was damaged severely in the eastern third of the state. The area of heavy damage is in east-central and southeastern districts where 1,600,000 acres were planted last fall. Reports indicate some damage in central and south-central districts, but generally wheat in the western two-thirds of the state is promising and particularly wheat in the western third of the state, where the heavy snow fell the latter part of March.

The official April 1-estimate of 73,872,000 bushels was made before the winter damage was fully recognized. Since then, there has been much deterioration in the eastern third of the state and marked improvement in the western two-thirds of the state. There will be considerable abandonment in the eastern third of the state. The fields are very spotted, very few having escaped some damage. Some fields having heavy winter-kill have already been reseeded. Many are planting spring grain in the damaged spots. Some are harrowing or disking their fields to break the hard, packed, cracked surface soil.

Last fall most of the wheat in eastern Nebraska looked very promising. It was green up to three weeks ago, but after the thaw and warmer weather, much of the wheat died out. If left, many stands will be so thin that weeds will be a menace; and later maturity increases the chances for the development of rust. At best, the yields of wheat in the eastern third of the state will be light, based on the present outlook. This of course will depend somewhat on the percentage of damaged wheat that will be abandoned.

Generally, wheat fields that have sufficient moisture will not winter-kill. This year proved to be an exception. Some experiments indicated that the loss was not due to ice-covering, but such tests may not be conclusive. Standing water was a factor and possibly water-logged soil was another factor. Wheat around snow fences received more moisture and it was quite probable the ground was unfrozen and absorbed the moisture and this, together with the protection of snow, accounts for that wheat coming out in fine shape. South slopes generally have better wheat; probably because of more snow covering and protection. Near zero temperatures after the snow covering disappeared and after wheat had lost its winter hardiness may be another factor in the loss of wheat. Also, cracked soil and exposure of roots may be a cause of loss. There may be other causes but no general rule seems to hold.

Some spring grains were planted last week. Returns indicate that about 17% of the oats and 14% of the barley were planted last week. A few potatoes were planted. This weeks returns indicate a lowered condition of winter wheat. The outlook for wild hay is exceptionally good and the same applies to alfalfa, although some counties report winter damage. Considerable of the unharvested corn was husked last week and some farmers were gleaning the fields where corn was harvested by mechanical pickers last fall. The preparation of land for sugar beets is making progress in North Platte Valley and a few beets were planted last week.

LIVESTOCK The blizzard that occurred the last of March was rather severe on livestock. A number reported that the blizzard was one of the worst and in a few instances, losses of livestock were greater than from the previous blizzards. The snow was exceptionally wet and heavy, extending from the southwest in a north-easterly direction to north central Nebraska. Moisture supplies are ample to start grass and pasture throughout the state as soon as the temperatures are more favorable.

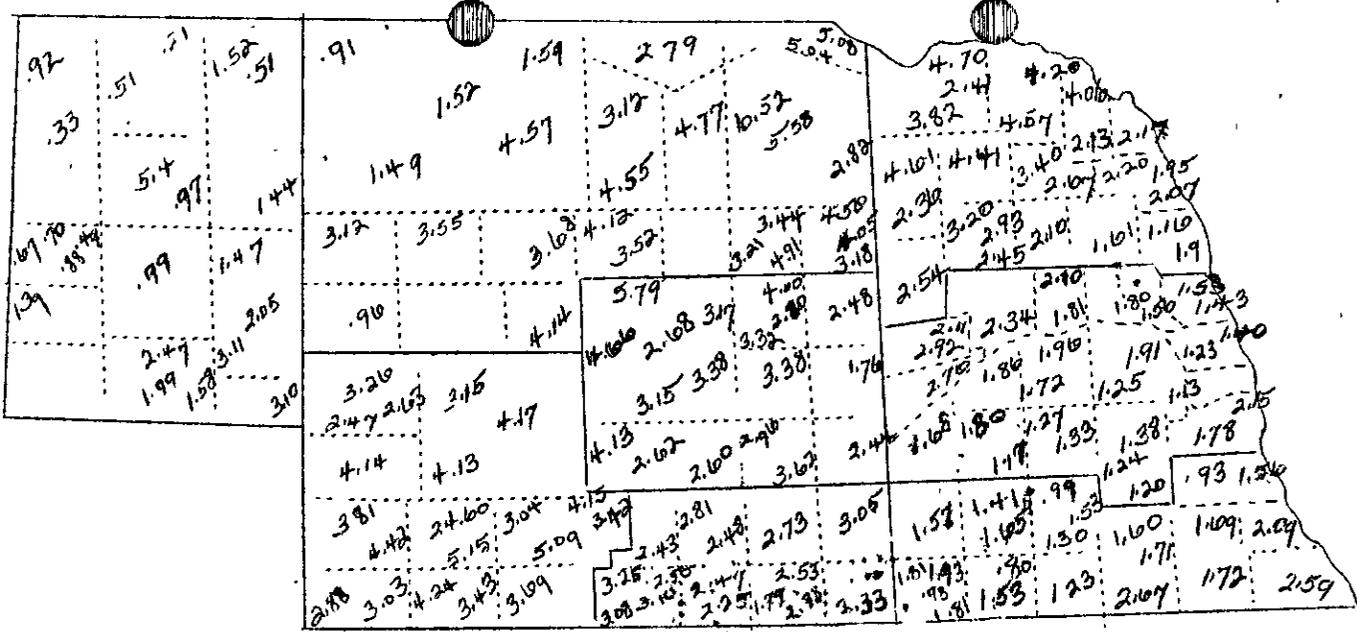
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(Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture.)

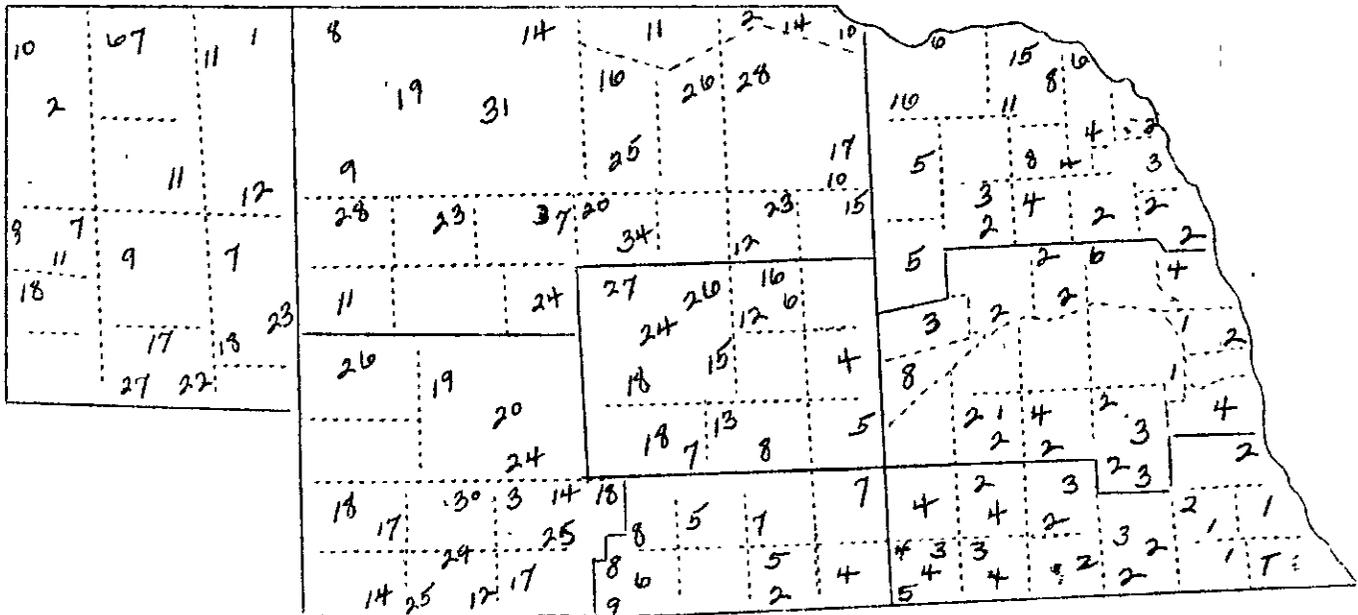
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 1949

Eastern Division		Eastern Div., Con't.	Central Division	Western Division			
Albion	.84	Hastings	.93	Broken Bow	.49	Alliance	.20
Auburn	.41	Lincoln	.19	Barwell	.38	Chadron	.25
Beatrice	.61	Norfolk	.25	Cambridge	.38	Culbertson	.48
Columbus	.46	Oakdale	.43	Holdrege	.56	Hayes Center	.30
Fairbury	.69	Omaha	.24	North Loup	.46	Kimball	.30
Fairmont	.90	Red Cloud	1.04	North Platte	.47	Scottsbluff	.20
Falls City	.70	St. Paul	.73	O'Neill	1.57	Sidney	.29
Fremont	--	Tekamah	.04	Ravenna	.66		
Grand Island	.86	Wakefield	--	Valentine	.71		
Hartington	.19	York	.17				
Average this week			.51		.58		.29
Total since April 1			.52		.63		.36
Normal since April 1			.69		.57		.51

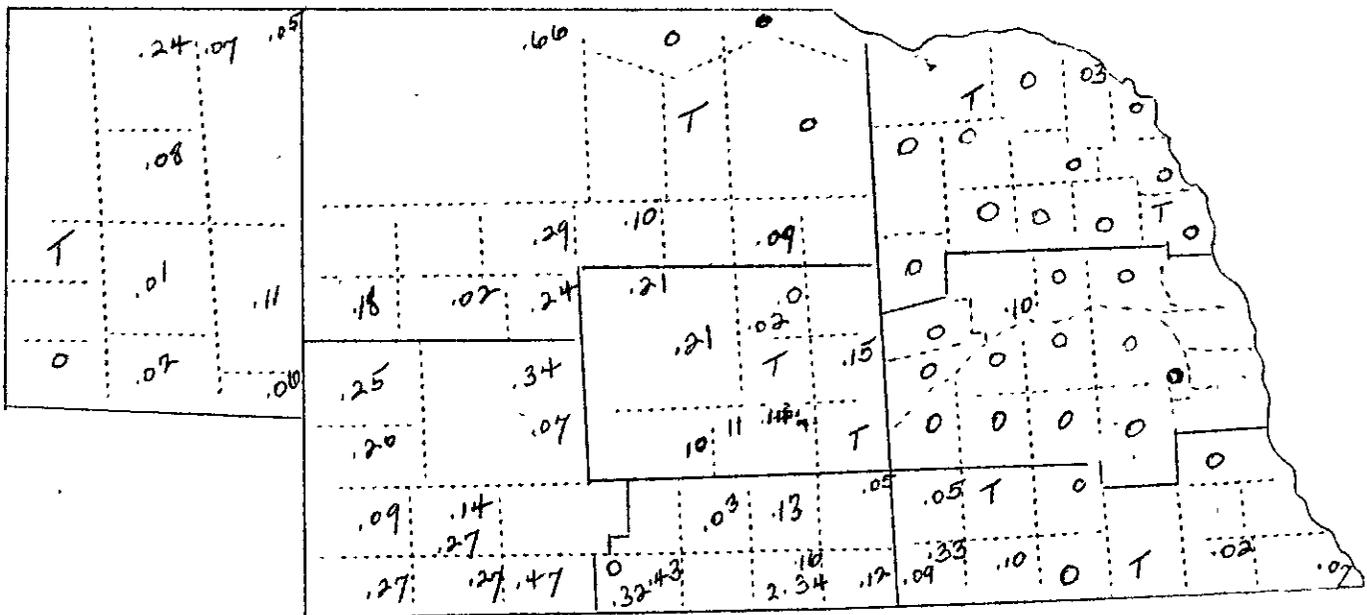
PRECIPITATION FOR MONTH OF MARCH, 1949



SNOWFALL IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF MARCH, 1949



PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (for 24 hours ending 6:30 a.m.)

	April 5th		6th		7th		8th		9th		10th		11th	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW Chadron	61	22	77	41	69	32	71	47	67	42	49	32	58	28
Scottsbluff	61	26	73	35	67	32	72	41	66	40	52	28	52	22
Sidney	58	26	70	33	64	33	70	41	57	37	46	30	43	24
N-C Burwell	53	25	59	35	60	32	64	32	60	40	46	38	49	29
Valentine	60	26	66	44	64	43	66	36	62	41	46	38	49	31
NE Norfolk	59	32	56	39	63	39	65	34	61	45	50	40	51	33
Sioux City	60	30	56	34	65	42	66	30	61	42	57	42	57	29
Gen. Gr. Island	56	32	65	41	66	42	70	37	60	40	48	38	47	33
E-C Lincoln	56	36	60	40	68	44	71	38	63	47	53	43	52	36
Omaha	56	32	57	39	68	44	69	36	62	46	59	44	54	42
SW Hayes Cntr	47	31	59	40	65	37	65	38	56	40	43	34	43	32
North Platte	45	27	60	38	66	35	67	36	57	40	43	34	45	29