

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS



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SERVICE

For Week Ending April 8, 2001

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GENERAL: Cool, damp soil conditions continued to limit fieldwork activities, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. With only 1.6 days suitable last week for spring tillage and planting operations, producers were beginning to get anxious for drier field conditions. Topsoil moisture was rated mostly adequate while subsoil moisture rated mostly short to adequate. Producer activities also included limited sugar beet planting and livestock care.

WEATHER: Temperatures last week averaged one to three degrees above normals in the east while the west ranged from three to six degrees above normals. Precipitation occurred statewide with amounts ranging from traces to 2.5 inches at North Platte.

CROPS: Winter Wheat crop rated 2% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 45% good, and 6% excellent. The crop has begun spring growth with a few fields in

the southeast and east central districts showing jointing. Oat planting made limited progress with 10% sown to date. This compares with 81% last year and 41% for the five-year average. Hay and forage supplies were below year ago levels with shortest supplies reported in the southwest and south central districts.

Pasture and range conditions were rated at 11% very poor, 23% poor, 46% fair, 20% good. Cattle and calves condition rated 3% very poor, 11% poor, 43% fair, 37% good, and 6% excellent. Calving since January 1 has reached 77% statewide. Calf losses this spring were reportedly higher than normal, due to cool damp conditions.

Input for this report was received from County Extension Educators and FSA County Executive Directors.

ITEM	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	PERCENT										
Days Suitable for Fieldwork (4/06/01)	3.0	1.4	1.3	1.0	.2	3.8	1.5	2.3	1.6	n/a	6.7
SUPPLIES OF HAY AND SOIL MOISTURE (4/08/01)											
Hay and Forage - Very short	7	29	17	29	14	37	23	12	21	24	n/a
- Short	28	33	32	33	43	38	52	55	37	40	n/a
- Adequate	61	37	50	38	43	21	25	33	41	35	n/a
- Surplus	4	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	n/a
Topsoil Moisture - Very short	0	4	0	5	0	2	6	0	2	2	33
- Short	16	14	15	13	3	30	8	7	12	19	39
- Adequate	82	80	77	62	88	65	82	88	80	74	28
- Surplus	2	2	8	20	9	3	4	5	6	5	0
Subsoil Moisture- Very Short	5	7	9	12	14	9	11	13	10	10	45
- Short	49	26	39	29	39	63	38	51	41	45	38
- Adequate	46	67	51	58	46	28	51	34	48	44	17
- Surplus	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0

n/a = not available.

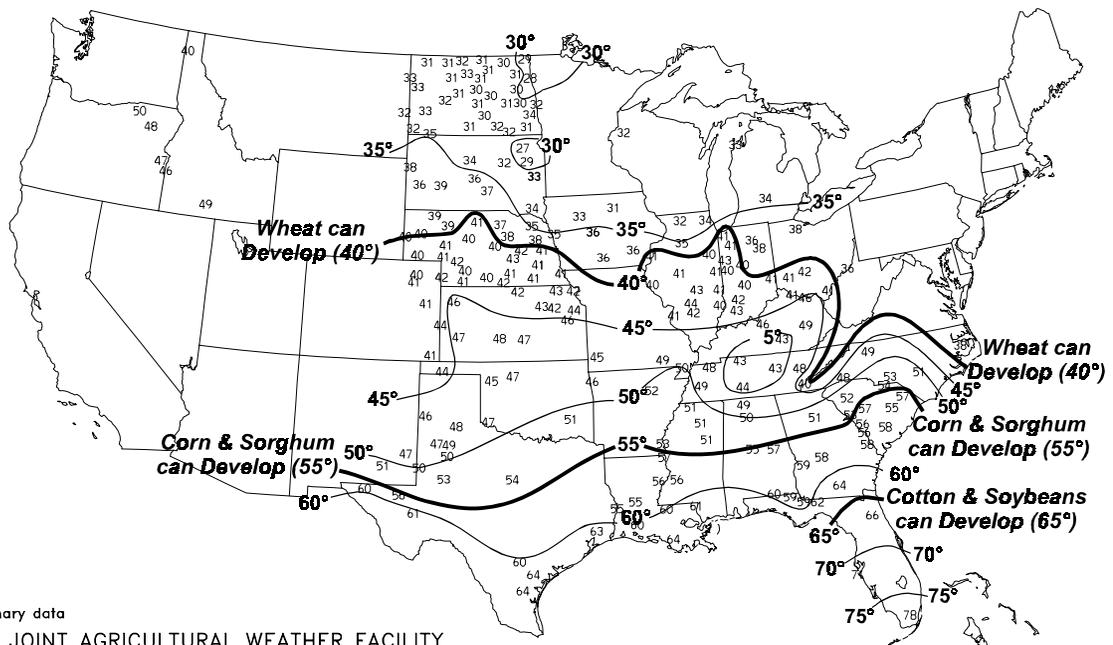
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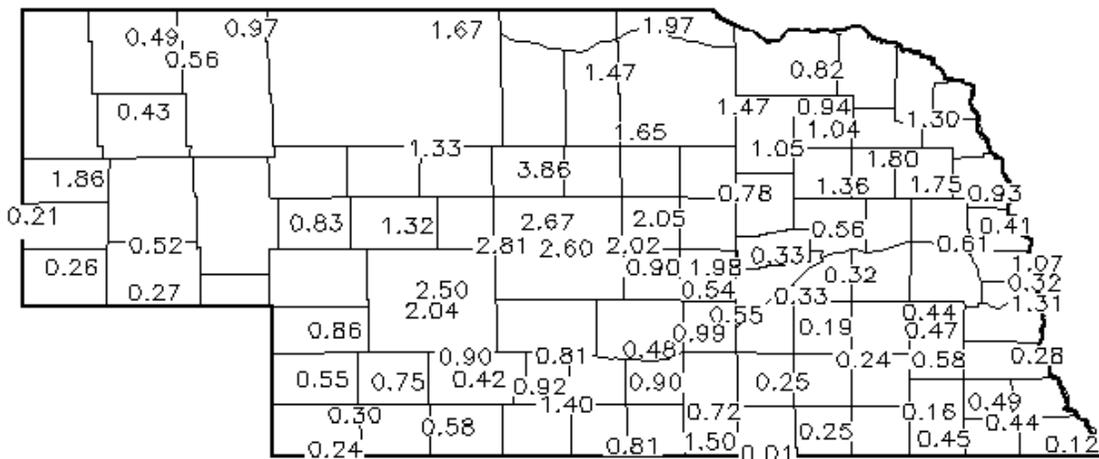
Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

MAR 25 - 31, 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 8, 2001



PRECIPIT
 APRIL 1 -
 2001

ATION,
 APRIL 8,

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week .....	.60	1.60	1.12	1.82	.50	.81	1.02	.32
Total since April 1 .....	.60	1.60	1.12	1.82	.50	.81	1.02	.32
Normal since April 1 .....	.44	.53	.63	.61	.69	.47	.51	.70
Total as % of normal	138%	304%	180%	301%	72%	171%	201%	45%

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

TEMPERATURE DATA FOR
 WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2001

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	
	Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	63	25	48	---
	Scottsbluff	64	25	48	+6
	Sidney	71	27	49	---
NC	Valentine	67	22	45	+3
NE	Norfolk	66	21	46	+1
	Sioux City	65	23	46	+1
CEN	Grand Island	68	29	49	+3
	Ord	64	22	47	---
EC	Lincoln	73	24	50	+3
	Omaha	69	27	49	+3
SW	Imperial	71	27	51	---
	North Platte	68	24	48	+4

Source: National Weather Service, Valley, NE.