

Issue NE-CW1504, released April 12, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 11, 2004, producers continued to work ground in preparation for spring planting as well as applying fertilizer and anhydrous, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Subsoil moisture continued to rate very short to short in the western two-thirds of the state. Other producer activities included livestock care and oat and corn planting.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from 3 degrees below normals to 1 degree above normals for the week. Precipitation occurred over most of state with amounts ranging from traces to just under one inch.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending April 11, 2004**

| | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Topsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 22 | 29 | 13 | 16 |
| Short | 31 | 30 | 35 | 24 |
| Adequate | 46 | 40 | 51 | 56 |
| Surplus | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Subsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 39 | 46 | 44 | 24 |
| Short | 35 | 31 | 44 | 36 |
| Adequate | 26 | 23 | 12 | 39 |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Days Suitable | 5.7 | 6.0 | 3.6 | 4.1 |

Field Crops Report: Wheat condition rated 14 percent very poor, 20 poor, 35 fair, 29 good, and 2 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 8 percent jointed, about one week ahead of last year at 1 percent and average at 2.

Corn planting had made a start in several areas around the state with less than 1 percent seeded to date.

Oat planting progressed to 63 percent seeded to date, ahead of last year at 42 and average at 49. Ten percent of the acreage had emerged, ahead of last year at 4 but behind average at 11.

Sugar beet planting made good progress in the Panhandle and southwest with 24 percent completed to date. A year ago 7 percent had been planted.

Alfalfa conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 9 poor, 39 fair, 43 good, and 5 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 11, 2004

| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Oats Planted | 63 | 40 | 42 | 49 |
| Oats Emerged | 10 | 3 | 4 | 11 |
| Wheat Jointed | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 |

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 11, 2004

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | 4 | 9 | 39 | 43 | 5 |
| Wheat | 14 | 20 | 35 | 29 | 2 |

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 10 percent very poor, 22 poor, 39 fair, 26 good and 3 excellent. This condition was better than a year ago and last fall. Cattle and calf condition rated 8 percent fair, 75 good, and 17 excellent. Spring calving was 86 percent complete with calf losses rated at mostly average.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

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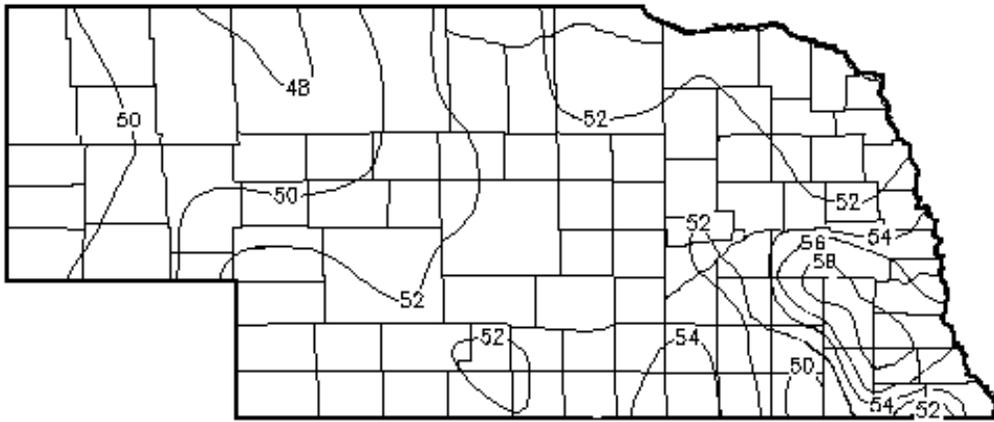
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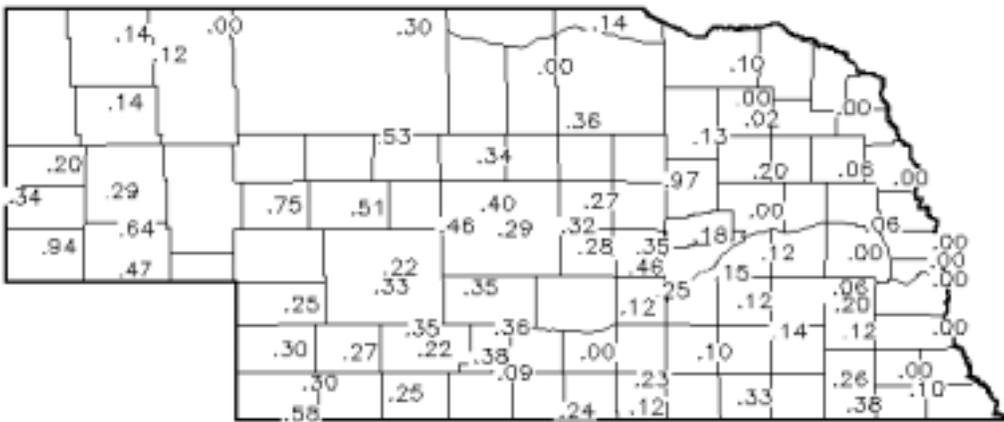
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**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
April 5 - April 11, 2004**



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 11, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 11, 2004

| Item | NW | NC | NE | CEN | EC | SW | SC | SE |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total past week | .43 | .23 | .07 | .32 | .10 | .32 | .34 | .19 |
| Total since April 1 | .43 | .23 | .07 | .32 | .10 | .32 | .34 | .19 |
| Normal since April 1 | .61 | .73 | .87 | .84 | .96 | .65 | .71 | .97 |
| Total as % of normal | 73% | 31% | 8% | 38% | 10% | 49% | 51% | 20% |

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

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 11, 2004

| Station | Temperature | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----|---------|-----------|----|
| | Extremes | | Average | Departure | |
| | High | Low | | | |
| NW | Alliance | 69 | 20 | 42 | -2 |
| | Scottsbluff | 70 | 24 | 45 | 1 |
| | Sidney | 69 | 25 | 44 | -1 |
| NC | Ainsworth | 73 | 22 | 45 | -1 |
| | Arthur | 71 | 21 | 43 | -2 |
| | O'Neill | 72 | 22 | 44 | -3 |
| NE | Concord | 75 | 25 | 46 | -1 |
| | Elgin | 74 | 27 | 46 | -1 |
| | West Point | 77 | 23 | 47 | -2 |
| C | Grand Island | 76 | 27 | 48 | 0 |
| | Lexington | 73 | 27 | 48 | 0 |
| | Ord | 75 | 26 | 47 | -1 |
| EC | Lincoln | 78 | 26 | 51 | 1 |
| | Central City | 76 | 27 | 48 | 0 |
| | Mead | 79 | 22 | 48 | -2 |
| SW | Champion | 75 | 25 | 45 | -2 |
| | North Platte | 74 | 24 | 46 | -1 |
| | Curtis | 74 | 26 | 47 | -1 |
| SC | Arapahoe | 71 | 23 | 43 | -2 |
| | Minden | 75 | 26 | 48 | 0 |
| | Red Cloud | 75 | 23 | 49 | 1 |
| SE | Beatrice | 76 | 24 | 49 | -1 |
| | Clay Center | 76 | 20 | 47 | -2 |
| | Nemaha | 76 | 29 | 53 | 2 |

Source: High Plains Climate Center.