

Issue NE-CW0605, released February 7, 2005, 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, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the month of January 2005, minimal moisture for cover and spring growth remained a concern for wheat producers in the southwest, south central, and the Panhandle, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. January's open weather allowed cattle on stock fields to fully utilize the grazing potential. The state continued to be rated in severe drought in the major wheat producing areas. Producer activities included livestock care and farm business activities.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)

**Weather Summary:** The end of month snow depth averaged about 0.4 inches with little to no snow cover reported across the state. January temperatures averaged from 6 to 15 degrees below normals the first half of the month and from near normal to 16 degrees above normals the last half.

**Field Crops Report: Wheat** condition rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 39 fair, 43 good, and 13 excellent. This rating is below a month ago, but remains well above last year's condition of 31 percent good or excellent. **Hay and forage** supplies were mostly adequate statewide.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Cattle and calves** condition rated 11 percent fair, 70 good, and 19 excellent. Calving was underway. For the most part, the weather has been open and allowed grazing of stalk fields with limited supplemental feeding.

**The following are comments from Nebraska's FSA County Executive Directors and County Extension Educators:**

#### ***NORTHWEST***

SCOTTS BLUFF/MORRILL: Corn harvest is finally finishing up. Combines were running this past week and should finish up by the weekend.

SIOUX: The ground is still frozen from cold weather and wet from the last snowfall. However, there is no current snow cover. Weather continues mild causing no difficulties for cows and calves.

#### ***NORTH CENTRAL***

HOLT/BOYD: Other than the first 2 weeks of January, we have had a mild winter which has allowed good use of grazing forages and minimum use of hay. Producers are busy doing book work and going to meetings.

#### ***NORTHEAST***

ANTELOPE: Inspections of stored corn have indicated problems (spoiled corn, corn growing, mold). It appears that snow may have blown into the bins and now has melted causing damage to the peak on the grain in storage. With no snow cover, cattle are still on stalks with a minimum amount of supplemental feeding. Calving has started in the area with no major problems noted.

BURT: Weather conditions have ranged from below zero to unseasonably warm at times.

CEDAR: Cattle are out in the stalks with no snow cover. Farmers are feeding hay and silage. Weather very mild resulting in livestock in good condition and taking smaller than normal amount of supplementary feed.

DAKOTA: Luckily we are having an open winter. Lots of hay is available, but it is of poor quality due to rain this last summer during harvest.

DIXON: Producers are occupied with winter chores, farm business activities which includes income tax, crop planning, farm shows, etc. Winter weather in Northeast Nebraska continues to be favorable.

KNOX: Tax work, attending trade shows, signing up for 2005 Farm Program. Some are preparing for calving.

THURSTON: We received approximately 10 inches of snow during January. However much of the month would be considered mild. Cow herds are still in stock fields. Much of the hay remains in reserve as cow-calf producers have only needed to feed hay on a supplement basis.

#### ***CENTRAL***

DAWSON: Moderate winter with some moisture. Farmers busy going to meetings, bankers, and suppliers.

#### ***EAST***

YORK: Cattle are being cared for, were in stock fields until Sunday. May need supplement feed now. Rained 4 hours early Sunday morning, then 8.5 inches of snow on the ground at 2 p.m. 1.2" precipitation out of this. Very welcome.

#### ***SOUTHWEST***

CHASE: Weather has been good for cattle. We are in need of moisture again.

FRONTIER: The weather has been very mild for this time of year. Calving is going good, however, drastic temperature changes from day to day have kept ranchers watching for outbreaks of scours and pneumonia in their calves.

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Wheat is turning green due to warm weather. Producers are attending farm sales, working with accountants and marketing crops. Spring calves are beginning to arrive.

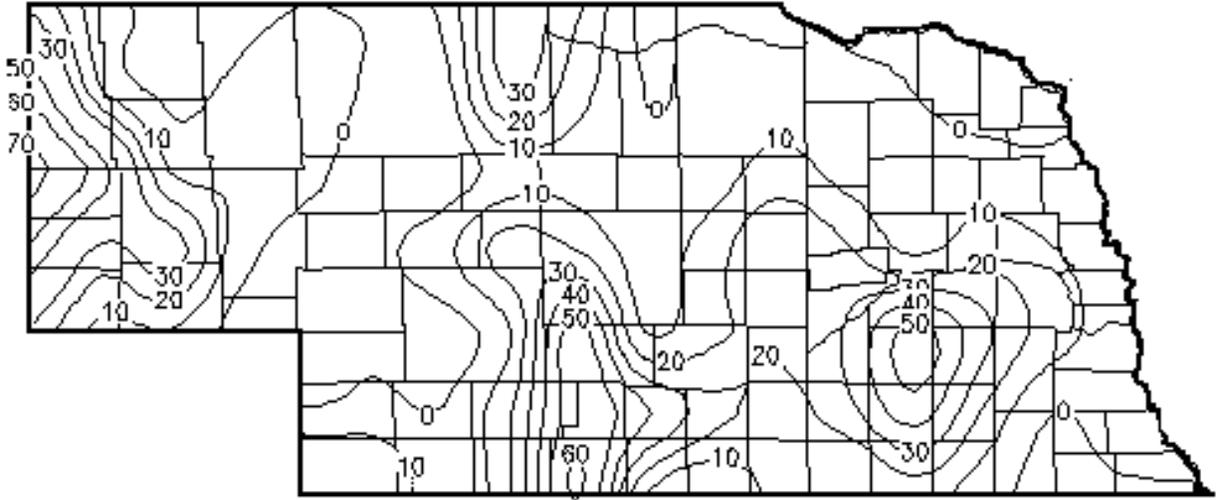
#### ***SOUTHEAST***

JEFFERSON: The weather is currently mild. We have had a very good winter to this point in time. It would be beneficial if we would get more winter moisture. Calving conditions are good. The early calves made it through the cold spell and are looking good.

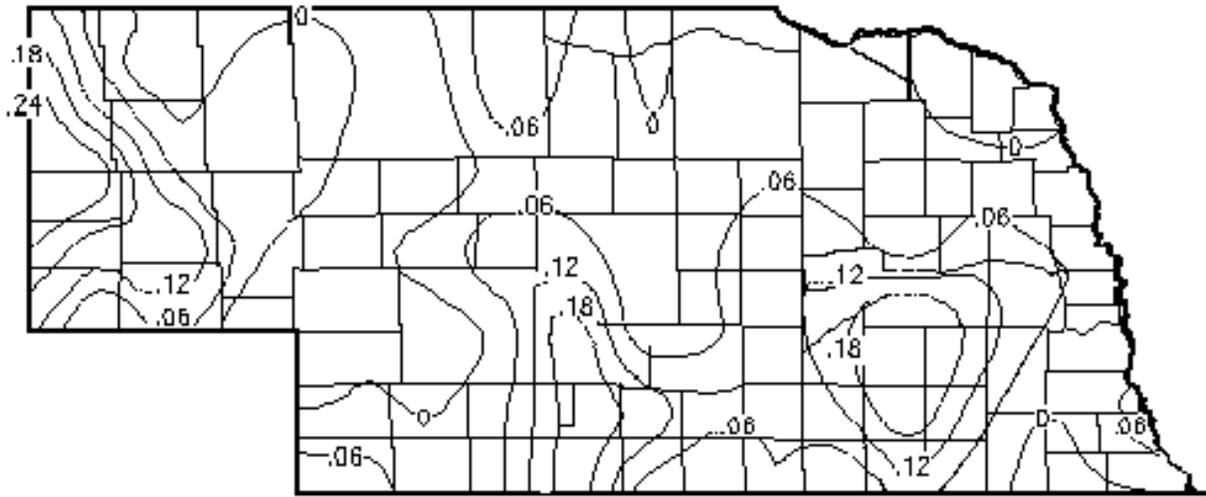
JOHNSON: The winter remains open and mild. Great calving weather. Unfortunately, we need moisture.

RICHARDSON: Soil conditions continue to be very dry. Calving has started and cattle and calf conditions are good. A lot of hay is being fed.

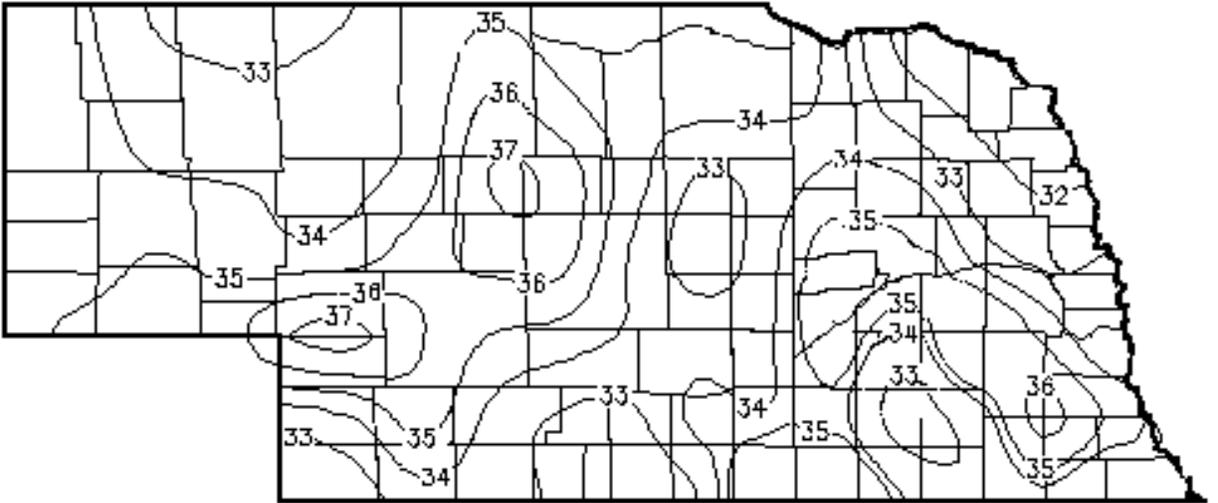
PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 2005<sup>1</sup>



PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2005<sup>1</sup>



SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL  
JANUARY 30, 2005 - FEBRUARY 6, 2005<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).