

Issue NE-CW1405, released April 4, 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 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 3, 2005, showers across southwestern and central areas of the state slowed spring fieldwork but improved soil moisture supplies, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Currently, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are above average and a year ago levels. Fieldwork activities included stalk shredding, discing, and applying fertilizer. Other producer activities included caring for livestock.

Weather Summary: Overall, high temperatures averaged from 3 to 8 degrees above normals. Precipitation was statewide although light across the eastern third of the state. Several locations, in southwestern areas, received amounts greater than one inch. Soil temperatures averaged nearly 3 degrees below year ago levels.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending April 3, 2005**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	2		29	19
Short	21		30	23
Adequate	76		40	51
Surplus	1		1	7
Subsoil				
Very Short	15		46	24
Short	36		31	36
Adequate	49		23	39
Surplus	0		0	1
Days Suitable	3.9		6.0	4.6

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 5 poor, 33 fair, 49 good, and 13 excellent. Fields had begun to joint in southwestern counties.

Oats planted increased to 43 percent, ahead of last year at 37 and average at 32. Six percent had emerged, above last year and average at 3.

Sugar beet planting was underway in the Panhandle with 8 percent completed, ahead of last year at 4.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 3, 2005

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Oats Planted	43	17	37	32
Wheat Jointed	1	0	7	2

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 3, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	0	5	33	49	13

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Cattle and calf condition rated 1 percent poor, 12 fair, 59 good, and 28 excellent. Spring calving was 72 percent complete with calf losses rated average to below 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. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2005.htm>.

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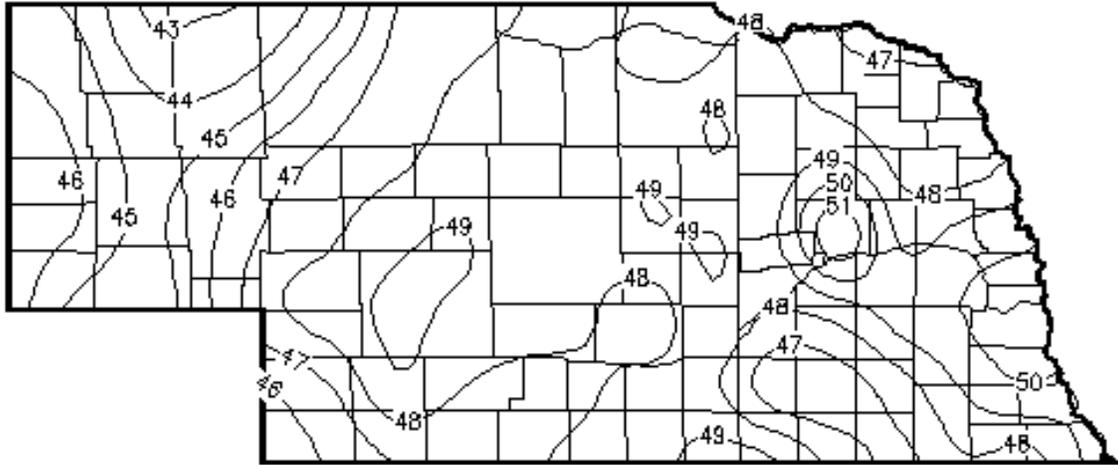
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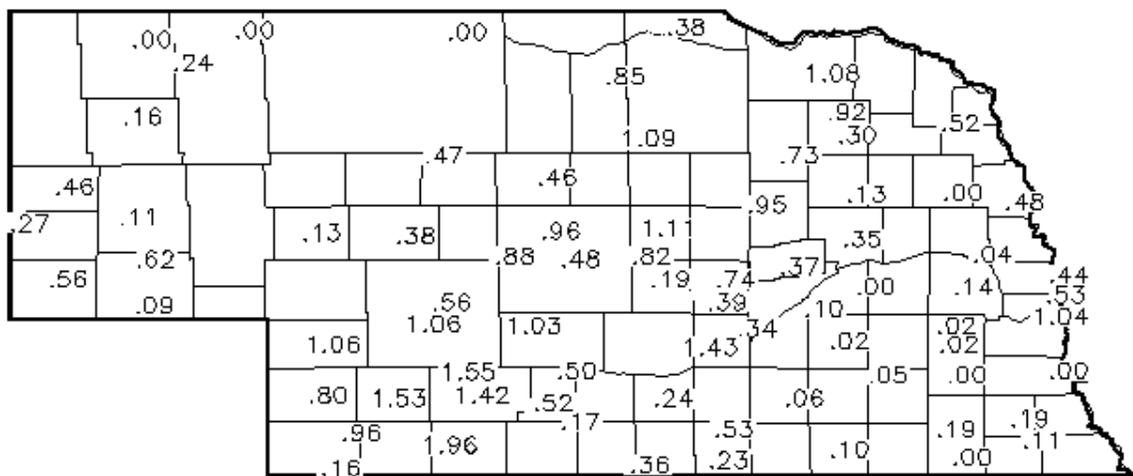
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**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
March 28 - April 3, 2005**



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

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 3, 2005



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

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 3, 2005

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	71	22	45	4
	Scottsbluff	75	22	46	5
	Sidney	72	22	45	3
NC	Ainsworth	74	28	50	6
	Arthur	73	23	49	6
	O'Neill	76	28	50	6
NE	Concord	77	24	49	5
	Elgin	76	28	50	6
	West Point	78	22	51	6
C	Grand Island	79	29	51	7
	Lexington	75	29	51	7
	Ord	78	27	50	6
EC	Lincoln	81	28	54	8
	Central City	81	27	51	6
	Mead	79	20	53	7
SW	Champion	76	22	47	4
	North Platte	75	24	50	6
	Curtis	75	26	50	6
SC	Arapahoe	72	19	48	5
	Minden	78	27	51	7
	Red Cloud	79	27	51	7
SE	Beatrice	83	25	52	6
	Clay Center	80	26	51	6
	Nemaha	82	29	55	8

Source: High Plains Climate Center.