



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Issue NE-CW 0111

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of December 2010, weather conditions were relatively mild and dry compared to the same month last year, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Average temperatures were warmest in the southern Panhandle and far southwest counties and coolest as you moved north and east across the state. Depth of snow at the end of December averaged 2-3 inches across the state, with 6 inches or more common across northern Panhandle and north central counties and little or no snow depth over east central and southeastern areas. The northern half of the state received above normal amounts of precipitation while the southern half was below normal. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels. Cattle producers made good use of stalks as snow cover was light. As a result, feed usage was not heavy. Feed supplies are more than adequate and cattle are in good condition.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged 2-3 degrees above normal across the western half of the state but 1-2 degrees below normal for the eastern half. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 27 to 34 degrees and in general got warmer as you moved west to east across the state. Precipitation was less than one-half inch over the southern half of the state and generally less than one inch elsewhere.

Field Crops Report: **Wheat** conditions statewide rated 2 percent very poor, 12 poor, 44 fair, 38 good, and 4 excellent, well below last year when 65 percent of the crop rated good or excellent. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 0 percent very short, 2 short, 94 adequate, and 4 excellent, above a year ago.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 0 poor, 13 fair, 78 good, and 9 excellent, above last year's 78 percent good or excellent.

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

NORTHWEST

SHERIDAN: Three days of blizzard didn't leave behind a lot of snow but cold winds could have put some stress on bare wheat fields.

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Bitter cold temperatures in the area.

CEDAR: Snow and cold have resulted in the need to feed cattle in stalks while most of the cow herds have been moved out of stalks as a result of drifted snow on fences. Plenty of hay for now.

DIXON: We have had a good December of 2010. Stubble fields have stayed open for grazing. Country roads have been open for grain and hay movement. Livestock remain in good condition for this time of year.

KNOX: Primary activities were tax work and care for livestock. Cattle have gotten good use of stalks this year.

THURSTON: A few inches of snow fell during the past week. Continued cold temperatures throughout the area.

EAST CENTRAL

CASS: Mild winter so far is keeping feed usage down and cattle condition up. Even some low temperatures haven't affected the cattle and they are in great shape. Little feed usage so far, as corn droppage from wind storms and open winter providing cattle with plenty of feed.

DOUGLAS: It is time for some moisture.

SOUTHWEST

LINCOLN: The temperature has turned cold with about 6 inches of snow on the ground. Some beef producers are feeding hay to their cattle.

SOUTH CENTRAL

FRANKLIN: Franklin county has not had any moisture for several months. Soil and crop (wheat) conditions are dry. Cattle on stocks look good. Weather has not been severe so hay supplies are good yet.

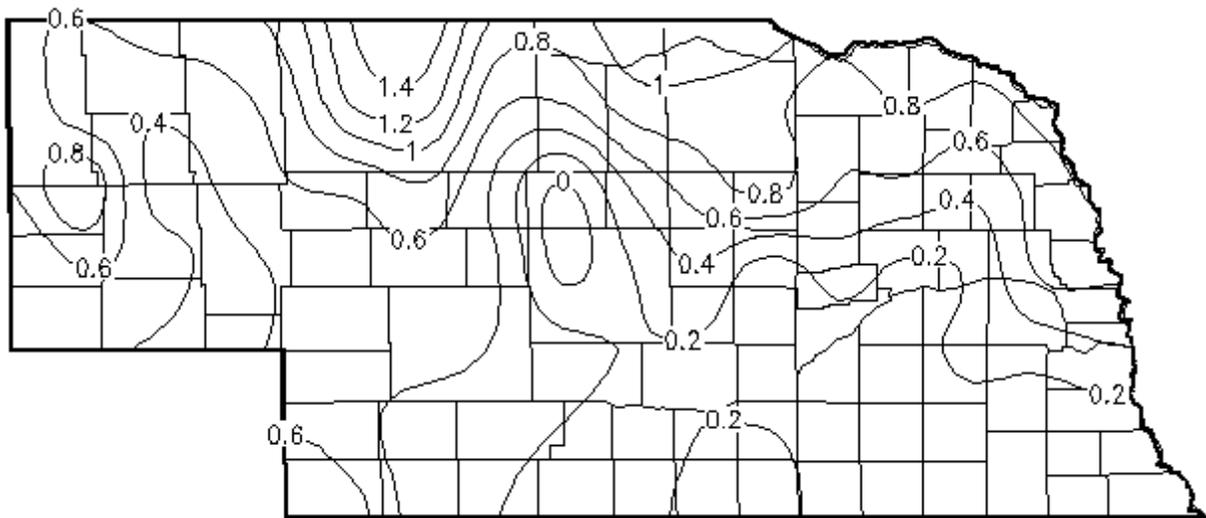
FURNAS: Very dry!

HARLAN: Up until this week, the fertilizer applicators were putting on dry or liquid. Some of the late-planted wheat has not shown up much but may still make a crop if things are good (wet) next spring.

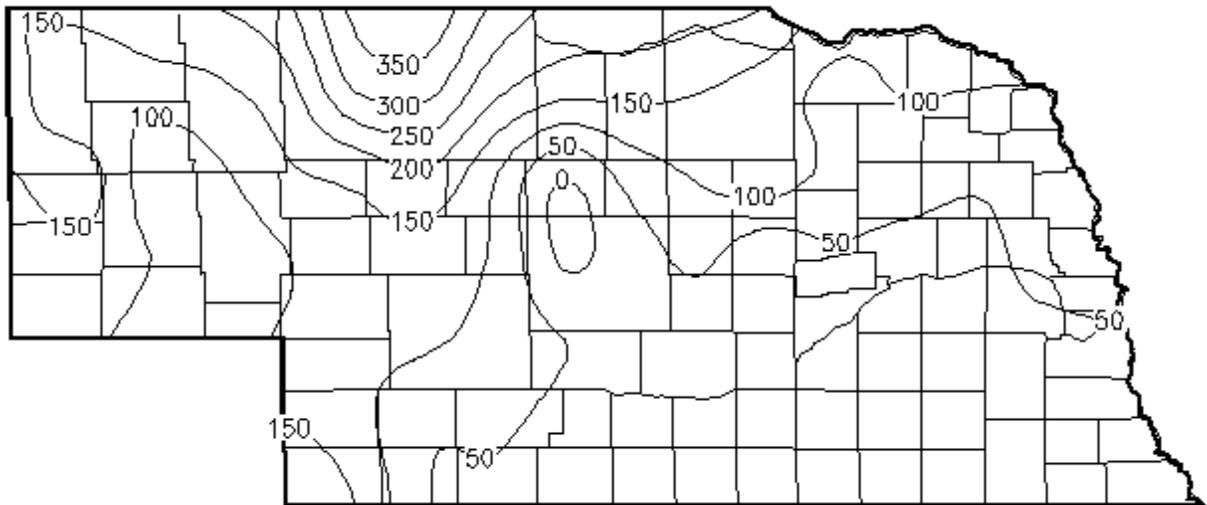
PHELPS: There has not been moisture since the middle of October. Most parts of the county need some moisture.

WEBSTER: It is still very dry here.

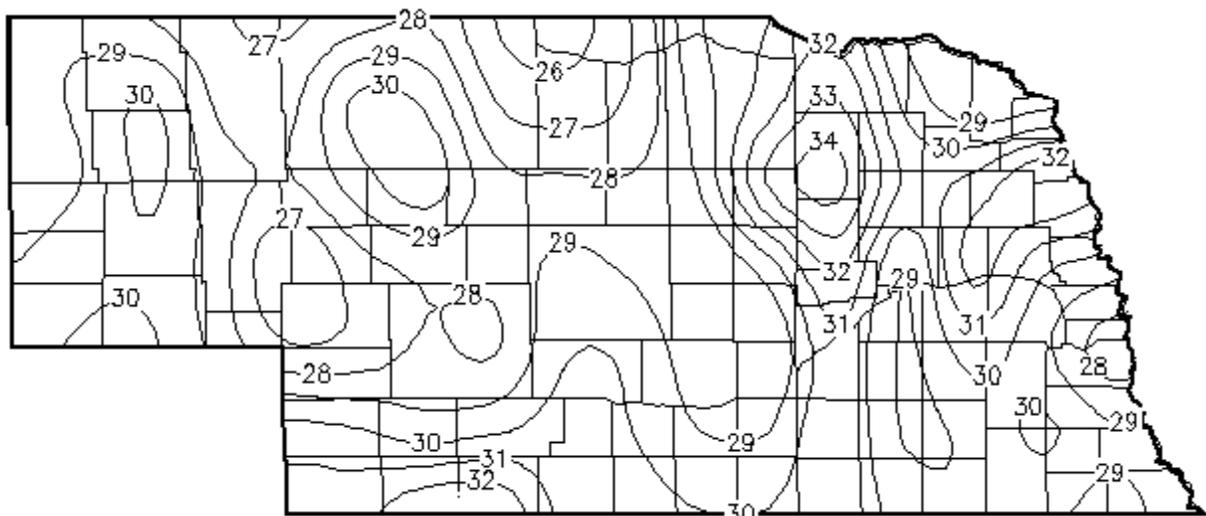
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 2010¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR DECEMBER 2010¹



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
DECEMBER 27, 2010 – JANUARY 2, 2011¹**



¹ Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office