

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS



For Week Ending March 31, 1996

Issue: 03-96

Phone: (402) 437-5541

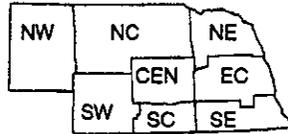
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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WEATHER

Temperatures for the week averaged eleven to fifteen degrees below normal across the state. Precipitation across the State averaged near a tenth of an inch in the Panhandle to an inch in the southeast.

GENERAL

Limited fieldwork occurred during March, but was further delayed due to a March 24 snowstorm, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The blizzard conditions brought hardships for cattle producers and blew snow into some farm grain bins which will necessitate monitoring the grain for spoilage. Producer activities included spring equipment preparation, acquiring seed and chemical supplies, some fieldwork, and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition declined last month and was rated 10% very poor, 31% poor, 45% fair, and 14% good. Though all acres benefited from moisture received

CROPS (Cont.)

in a March 23-24 snow storm, all areas were in need of additional moisture for the crop. Most measurable snow from the storm did not stay on the fields, due to high winds during the storm. Reporters indicate the extent of winter kill and loss from dry conditions won't be known until the crop begins to green up and put on growth.

Oat planting was off to a good start during the latter part of March and as of Sunday, 21% had been seeded. This compares to 6% last year and 17% for the five-year average. About 6% had emerged to date.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range condition rated at 3% very poor, 17% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, and 1% excellent. The March 23-24 snowstorm stressed newborn calves and some losses occurred. The storm increased producer workload for care and feeding of cattle. By week's end, spring calving progress was 66% complete.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MARCH 31, 1996	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Oats Sown	56	3	11	5	18	29	9	60	21	n/a	6	17
% Oats Emerged	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	7	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
WINTER REPORTING AS OF MARCH 31, 1996												
% Cows Calved	73	67	47	68	68	71	78	67	66	n/a	65	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MARCH 29, 1996												
Days suitable	3.2	3.6	1.6	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.3	n/a	0.6	
Topsoil Moisture - Very Short	19	0	4	0	21	28	31	50	17	n/a	1	
(Percent) - Short	41	67	33	82	52	61	60	37	53	n/a	4	
- Adequate	40	32	53	18	24	11	9	13	27	n/a	81	
- Surplus	0	1	10	0	3	0	0	0	3	n/a	14	
Subsoil Moisture - Very Short	13	0	7	0	17	15	36	42	15	n/a	0	
(Percent) - Short	37	34	39	78	59	59	35	45	46	n/a	10	
- Adequate	50	50	53	22	21	26	29	13	35	n/a	83	
- Surplus	0	16	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	n/a	7	

n/a - Not Available

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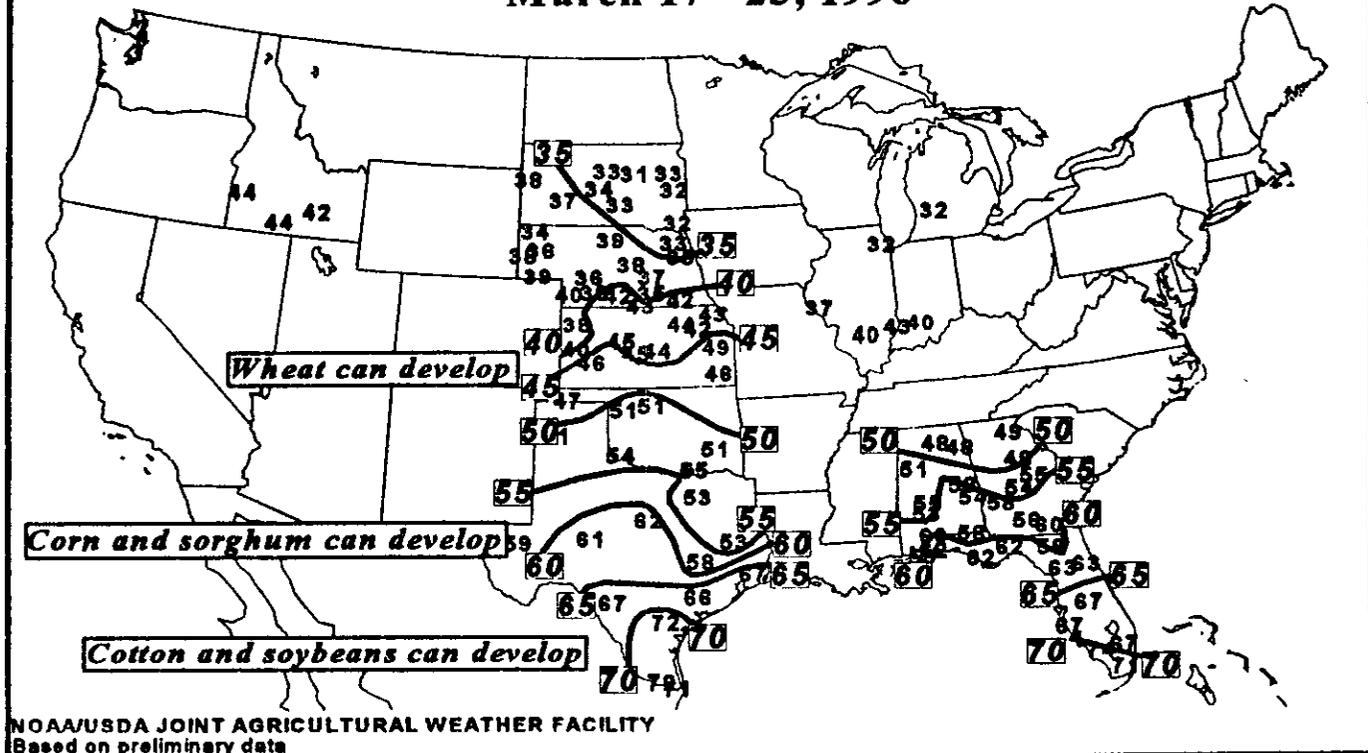
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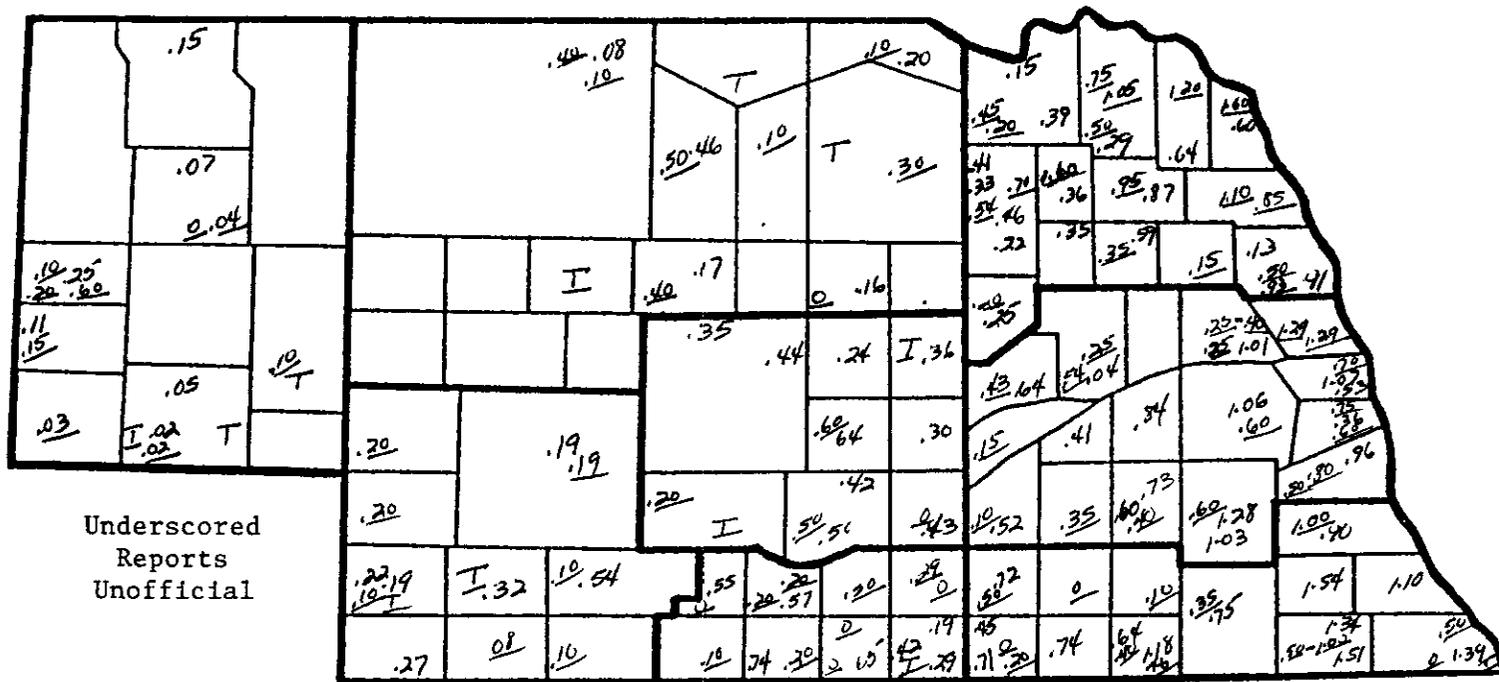
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4-1-96*

Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare) March 17 - 23, 1996



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1996



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1996

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	45	-5	22	---	.15
Scottsbluff	53	-2	27	-13	.25
Sidney	51	-2	27	---	.02
NC Valentine	47	-6	23	-15	.08
NE Norfolk	50	0	29	-12	.35
Sioux City	50	4	29	-12	.60
CEN Grand Island	53	0	29	-14	.43
Ord	49	-2	28	---	.24
EC Lincoln	63	4	33	-11	1.28
Omaha	58	8	33	-11	1.07
SW Imperial	59	0	31	---	.19
North Platte	56	-1	29	-12	.19

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.