

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 12/23/47 P.M.

Week Ending 12/22/47

WEATHER Fair weather prevailed during the week, with warm, sunny days and frosty nights. There was little wind. Some nights and early mornings were foggy in the eastern portion of the State.

CROPS About 88% of the corn was husked by December 20. This is only 4% more than the percentage husked on the same date a year ago when harvesting was also unusually late because of the extremely wet weather in September and October in 1946. Because of snow and wet fields, mechanical pickers could not be used except when the ground was frozen and more farmers have resorted to picking the balance of the corn by hand. Very little corn is moving to market. Feeders are still having difficulty to buy corn.

Winter wheat outlook is unchanged. The crop is going into the winter in most excellent condition in western Nebraska and good in eastern Nebraska as far as surface soil moisture is concerned, but there is considerable apprehension as to whether the late seeded wheat will stand the winter or not. Most of the reports now indicate that the ice sheet has disappeared and it does not look as if the wheat was damaged. However, a few reports indicate possible damage and probably some damage to fall seeded alfalfa from the ice sheet which lasted much longer than usual.

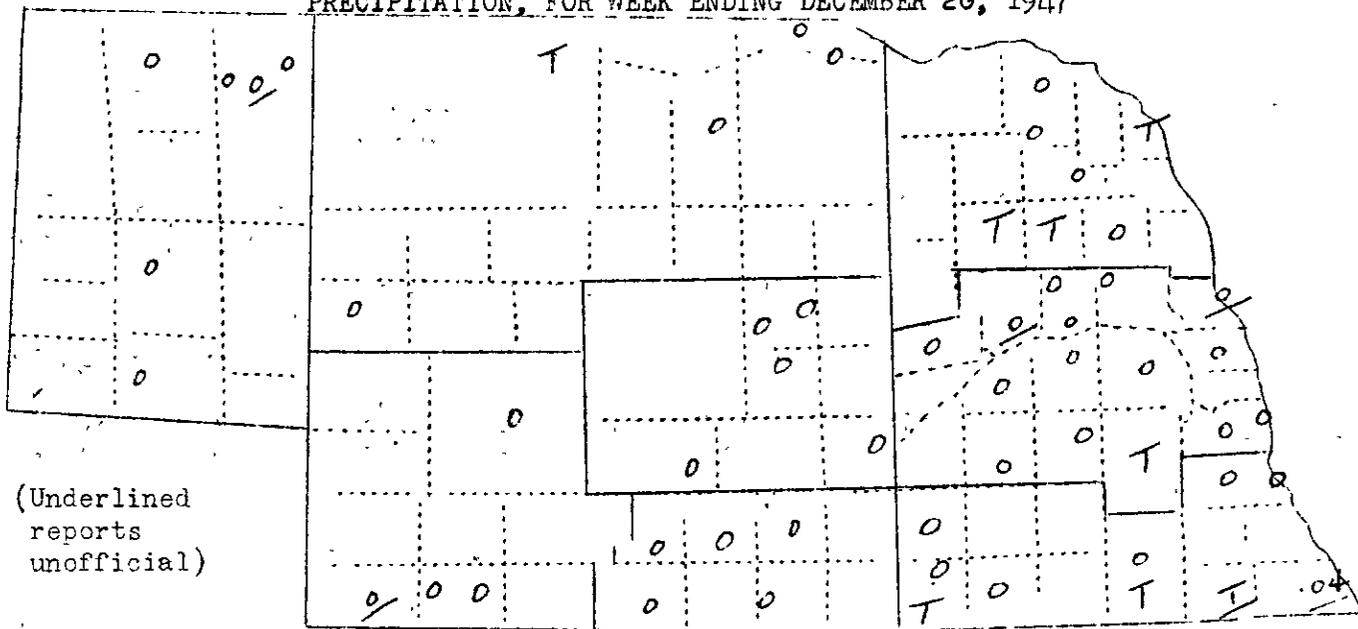
There are still about 1,000 acres of sugar beets left to harvest in the North Platte Valley and very little elsewhere. Beets were frozen in for a time, but the ground has thawed out, so it appears now that practically all of the crop will be harvested.

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LIVESTOCK Although the snow has largely disappeared, some of the range country is still partly covered with snow. More than the usual quantity of hay has been required so far. There is still considerable hesitancy on the part of cattle feeders, not only because of the high price of feeder cattle, but the high price of corn and the difficulty in getting sufficient corn. The hog-corn ratio is unfavorable and the movement to market may be heavier after the first of the year. Testing and checking up on poultry in one of the counties indicated too many unprofitable layers on hand.

About one-third of the counties reported a shortage of corn, 60% an ample supply and only 6% surplus. Twenty-nine percent of the counties reported a shortage of concentrates, 69% ample and 2% a shortage. About 13% of the counties reported a shortage of hay and forage supply, 63% ample and 4% surplus. About 37% of the counties reported a shortage of range and pasture, 62% ample and 1% a surplus. Reports on the corn supply indicated that 37% of the counties are short, 55% have ample, and only 8% a surplus.

Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture.

PRECIPITATION, FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 20, 1947



(Underlined reports unofficial)

HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (For 24 hours ending 6:30 a.m.)

		Dec. 16th		17th		18th		19th		20th		21st		22d	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	33	10	35	14	49	34	51	27	45	20	--	30	45	26
	Scottsbluff	35	14	36	15	52	33	52	21	52	18	48	22	38	24
	Sidney	37	16	35	14	55	31	50	17	52	17	44	22	40	27
N-C	Burwell	31	--	38	9	48	24	46	--	46	21	43	--	36	31
	Valentine	36	14	33	19	47	28	47	28	48	23	43	29	45	24
NE	Norfolk	25	11	34	12	42	20	37	15	29	17	39	18	37	26
	Sioux City	21	13	31	10	40	32	32	13	31	17	36	14	37	25
Cen.	Grand Island	29	13	37	19	41	25	49	23	43	24	44	25	38	29
E-C	Lincoln	35	15	35	20	41	29	43	25	41	26	42	26	41	33
	Omaha	34	14	34	20	44	26	39	22	44	25	41	21	39	31
SW	Hayes Center	36	18	36	18	49	27	49	23	49	25	48	26	35	30
	North Platte	37	13	36	12	46	20	49	19	46	21	45	30	33	30

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 22, 1947.

None

PIG SURVEY

A total of 130,000 sows farrowed last fall, an increase of 10% over the fall of 1946, but 15% below intended farrowing indicated in the June pig survey. A total of 788,000 fall pigs were saved against 740,000 in the fall of 1946, an increase of 6%. The December pig survey indicated farmers plan to reduce the 1948 spring farrowing 17%.

Fall farrowing for the Corn Belt States shows an increase of 5% over the fall of 1946, a decrease of 7% from intentions expressed last June. Corn Belt States plan to decrease the 1948 spring farrowings by 14%.

Fall farrowings for the United States are up 4% from the fall of 1946 but 5% below intentions expressed in June. Present plans are to reduce the 1948 U. S. spring farrowings 11%.