

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 2/15/49 11:00 a.m.

Week Ending 2/14/49

WEATHER Heavy sleet and snow fell over the southeast portion of the State during the week-end, but there was little or no precipitation elsewhere. There were rapid changes in temperature, with thawing on several days, and some nights below zero over most of the State; average temperatures were a few degrees below normal. High winds on Saturday caused much re-drifting of old snow, particularly in the north-eastern portion of the State.

CROPS The few days of sunny weather and high temperatures brought some thawing. Some of the ice melted and other ice became porous. Some samples of wheat brought into the greenhouse by the College of Agriculture, that were covered with two and one-half inches of ice, brought conclusive evidence that the ice coating has not damaged the crop. A rapid thaw might result in standing water in low places in wheat fields, which would damage wheat. It could also cause too much runoff and flooding. Much of the soil in eastern Nebraska was saturated from rain before it froze.

Some corn was husked last week in southern counties. Marketing has been light because of somewhat blocked roads and the price is unsatisfactory at present. There is increased activity in getting corn in condition for loans. Marketing of potatoes has picked up.

There were quite a few reports of short supply of hay. Prices have ranged from \$25 to \$37 per ton. Farmers are hesitating to pay more than \$30 per ton for hay and some are planning on marketing their cattle. Cass County reports a surplus of hay.

Several days of higher temperatures during the past week caused the snow to settle and pack enough to check drifting. However, new fallen snow in northeastern counties brought considerable drifting and blocking of highways. Most of the highways in the northwestern fourth of the State have been opened and some of the Army equipment is being moved out. Many of the side roads in the northeastern fourth have not been opened yet.

Typical reports of conditions from northeastern Nebraska are as follows:

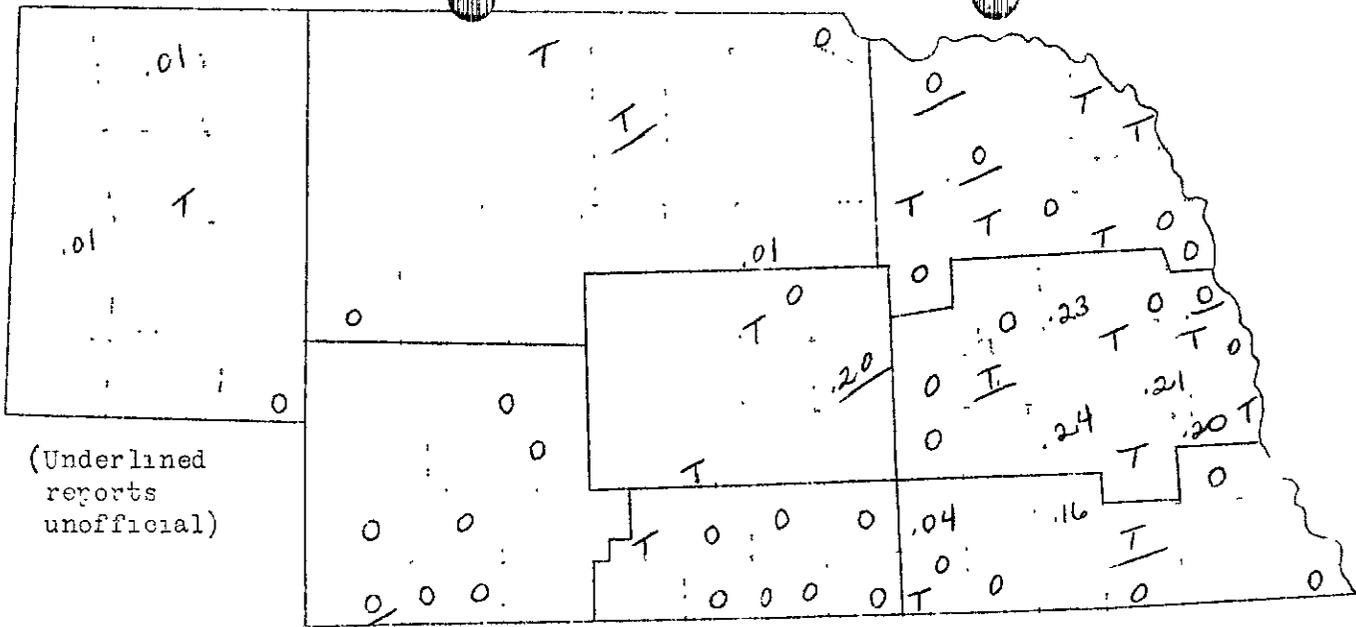
Antelope County: "Feeding cattle have just about held their own in weight. No evident gain the past 60 days. Army weasels have done a wonderful job in opening up highways and roads to farmyards and to haystacks, for even tractors and horses could not go there. Lack of bedding for cattle very evident. Many farmers just getting out to main highways and to town for the first time in two or more months. Some loss of young calves that have been born since the first of January. Many farmers have fat hogs now too heavy for the market but could not be trucked in nor marketed at the right weights due to the snowblocked roads."

Knox County: "Many roads blown shut Wednesday night. Federal Highway 59 still blocked east of Creighton. 84 between Bloomfield and Center opened this morning. Last night's blow closed 84 east of Bloomfield. Local paper reported 59 bulldozers working. The rush is to get roads open, later they will try to widen so as to save the road bed and eliminate blocking when local wind storms come up. Disaster headquarters report a great letdown in the number of emergency calls. Tremendous numbers of hogs going out, most of them heavy. Relatively large number of cattle either are going out or will get out as soon as roads are opened. Some from feed lots. Some farmers are cutting down their herds because of the shortage of roughage. Alfalfa hay being brought in by one trucker from Dakota at \$35 per ton to the farmer. Some wild hay being hauled from Sioux City market in addition to some hauling from other sources at \$32 per ton. Snow clearing outfits are working 24 hours."

LIVESTOCK Nearly all of the counties in the range area in northeastern Nebraska are reporting a short supply of hay. Much larger amounts were required this season because of the continued blizzards. Some hay is being shipped, but farmers are reluctant to pay the higher prices asked. Range will offer considerable feed as soon as the snow disappears. More concentrates are being ordered. Because of the lack of hay, lowered vitality of cows, and strain of walking through deep snow, a considerable abortion is being caused. Some are expecting a considerable reduction in the spring calf crop. Shortage of hay is causing some liquidation of cattle. The reduction in price of cattle is causing much concern among the feeders, especially those who payed higher prices for feeder cattle last fall.

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

PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 11, 1949



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

		Feb. 8th		9th		10th		11th		12th		13th		14th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	41	4	27	--	28	3	45	33	50	-2	1	-10	15	-12
	Scottsbluff	42	11	26	12	29	9	47	39	52	3	13	-7	27	5
	Sidney	41	10	27	2	33	7	44	20	50	4	27	-7	22	6
N-C	Burwell	35	10	25	1	34	-7	35	22	--	--	5	-3	--	--
	Valentine	42	7	29	10	31	-2	41	31	51	1	7	-9	14	8
NE	Norfolk	32	11	23	8	34	-8	30	19	38	9	22	-1	4	-4
	Sioux City	34	12	23	-5	34	-8	18	15	39	16	28	3	8	-4
Cen.	Grand Island	35	18	30	13	36	0	36	21	42	10	30	0	10	5
E-C	Lincoln	38	20	30	14	38	3	31	27	45	18	38	3	9	5
	Omaha	29	21	31	5	39	-2	23	19	46	21	36	6	8	0
SW	Hayes Center	39	19	--	14	28	14	41	23	54	9	12	-1	20	11
	North Platte	36	16	31	13	35	7	40	21	45	8	22	-3	20	9

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 14, 1949

Eastern Division

Grand Island	.14
Lincoln	1.02
Norfolk	.03
Omaha	1.24
Sioux City	.09

Central Division

Burwell	.02
Valentine	0
North Platte	0

Western Division

Chadron	.01
Hayes Center	.02
Scottsbluff	.02
Sidney	0

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