

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
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 12-29-53 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 12-28-53

WEATHER It was rather cold the first two days of the week and considerably warmer thereafter. Temperatures averaged 4 to 6 degrees above the seasonal normal. There was no precipitation of consequence. Some light amounts fell over the east and north portions. Most of the snow this season has melted with very little run-off.

CROPS The condition of winter wheat continues to be excellent. Some western wheat fields are being pastured by sheep. The supply of surface moisture is adequate as much of the snow which has fallen thus far has melted and has been absorbed by the soil. The moisture has been very beneficial to fall seedings of grasses and legumes as well as permanent pastures. A total of 3,722,000 acres of winter wheat were seeded last fall or 13% less than the fall of 1952.

The shipment of potatoes continues to be considerably below last year's. The price received by farmers for potatoes has been far below that prevailing a year ago. A total of 825,000 bags of cleaned Great Northern beans were produced this year and 361,000 bags of cleaned Pinto beans this year. About 70% of Nebraska beans are of the Great Northern variety, of which Nebraska produces 45% of the national total of this variety.

The Nebraska bluegrass seed crop totaled 1,380,000 pounds, only a fraction of the 10,800,000 pounds produced in 1952. Last year Nebraska was second in production, but this year the State ranks sixth.

The feed grain supply is reported ample throughout most of the State with a few of the counties in the eastern part of the State showing a surplus. Hay and forage are generally ample in all sections except the southeast and southwest. Most of the snow cover has melted thus decreasing the amount of supplemental feeding necessary.

The supply of farm labor is adequate with some areas reporting a surplus. The demand for labor is relatively low as the principal activity of farmers the past week was caring for livestock and other usual farm chores with Christmas activities taking up some time. A few acres of corn remain to be picked in the western part of the State. Some farmers are having seed samples tested and are obtaining fertilizer for use next spring and summer.

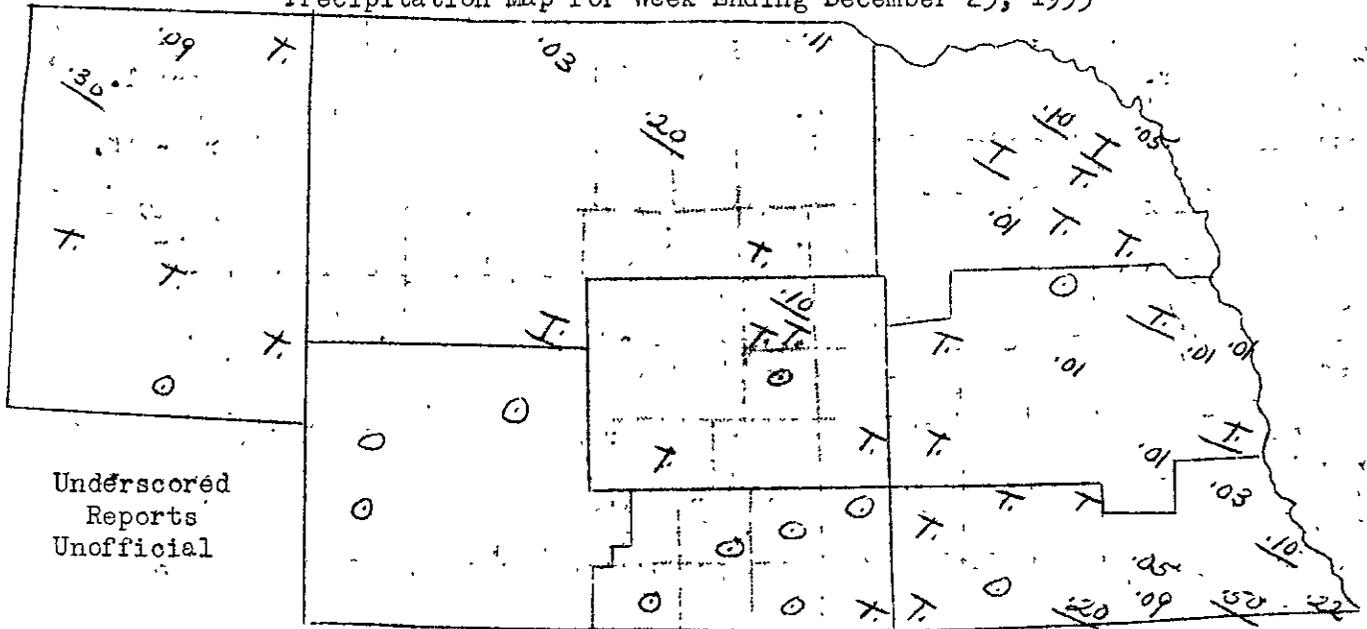
LIVESTOCK The 1953 fall pig crop was down 8% and the combined spring and fall crops were 12% below 1952. Farrowing intentions for the spring of 1954 show a 12% increase but the number of sows to be farrowed would be considerably below the 10-year average. Commercial slaughter estimates for Nebraska during the first 10 months of this year show hog slaughter at 2.1 million head or 15% under the same period in 1952.

Cattle slaughter for the Jan.-Oct. period totaled 1.3 million head, representing an increase of 35%. Sheep and lamb slaughter was up 7% and exceeded 1 million head. Calf slaughter totaled 45,000 and was more than double the 1952 rate. Total live-weight of meat animals slaughtered commercially in Nebraska in 1952 totaled more than 2 billion pounds.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 28, 1953

<u>Eastern Division</u>		<u>Central Division</u>	<u>Western Division</u>	
Grand Island	0 12 50	Burwell	0	
Lincoln	.01	Lexington	0	
Norfolk	.01	North Platte	0	
Omaha	0 12-29-53	Valentine	.02	
Sioux City	.04		Sidney	0

Precipitation Map for Week Ending December 25, 1953



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (for 24 hours ending in a.m.)

		December		23rd		24th		25th		26th		27th		28th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	34	4	20	2	40	20	42	14	44	19	46	27	34	17
	Scottsbluff	34	9	23	3	40	16	47	11	48	13	50	24	34	9
	Sidney	33	9	21	5	39	24	47	17	49	16	43	25	34	11
N-C	Burwell	39	2	16	5	35	25	43	23	42	19	41	30	35	12
	Valentine	38	0	19	7	37	26	46	23	48	20	45	31	34	17
NE	Norfolk	34	1	12	6	36	21	46	26	46	24	--	--	37	14
	Sioux City	34	-1	11	-3	37	17	51	25	50	25	44	31	37	11
CEN.	Grand Island	39	3	16	9	35	24	46	25	45	23	45	30	37	19
	Lexington	37	2	17	4	35	21	45	17	44	18	40	29	36	18
E-C	Lincoln	38	5	17	9	38	27	52	27	51	25	47	22	40	18
	Omaha	37	4	16	6	40	25	54	25	54	29	45	29	42	15
SW	Imperial	36	9	24	5	40	23	49	20	49	19	43	28	36	15
	North Platte	39	4	20	6	41	24	49	18	50	16	43	28	36	13

U. S. Department of Agriculture
 203 P. O. Building, Box 1911
 Lincoln 1, Nebraska