

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

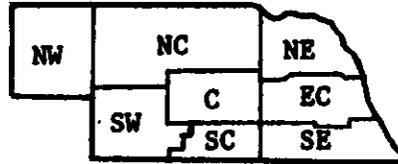
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Week Ending 4-20-86

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WEATHER

Precipitation averaged better than a half inch over most of the State except for an inch over the Panhandle and north-east section. Temperatures averaged five degrees below normal over the entire State.

GENERAL

Fieldwork was at a standstill at the beginning of the week as another storm dumped snow across the northern border counties and rain elsewhere in Nebraska. Temperatures dropped to the teens to mid-twenties resulting in a heavy frost Statewide. Freeze damage to small grains was expected to be very light, but growth may be temporarily stunted. Fruit trees sustained appreciable damage, especially early blooming trees such as apple and cherry. Some yield reduction in the fruit crop was expected. The alfalfa crop was slightly affected which could result in some reduction in the first cutting. Fieldwork was limited to dryer fields with disking, fertilizing, manure spreading and seedbed preparation being the main activities. Other activities were purchasing supplies and making financial arrangements for the coming year. The number of days suitable for fieldwork was 2.2.

Topsoil moisture condition rated 8% short, 44% adequate and 48% surplus. Subsoil moisture condition rated 6% short, 76% adequate and 18% surplus. A year ago, topsoil moisture was 87% short and 13% adequate. Subsoil supplies were 24% short and 76% adequate.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition rated 18% fair, 58% good and 24% excellent. The decline in condition reflects some damage to the crop from freezing temperatures and high winds early in the week. No yield reduction was expected at this time, however, a slight delay in maturity could occur. Septoria leaf blotch was reported in the south central district and although several fields in the southeast district appear to be progressing at a less than normal rate, most of the wheat was rated in good condition.

Oat seeding was 70% completed compared to 92% last year and 45% average.

Approximately 1% of the corn was planted. Last year 3% was planted at this time and the 5-year average shows none. Planting was most active in the central district.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range rated mostly adequate to short. Some wind erosion was reported on over-grazed pastures in the north central district. Calving and lambing continued to make good progress. Additional stress on young livestock occurred as the storm passed through the State resulting in a few more deaths. Problems with scours and respiratory ailments continued to be minor.

Precipitation, April 1 - April 18, 1986

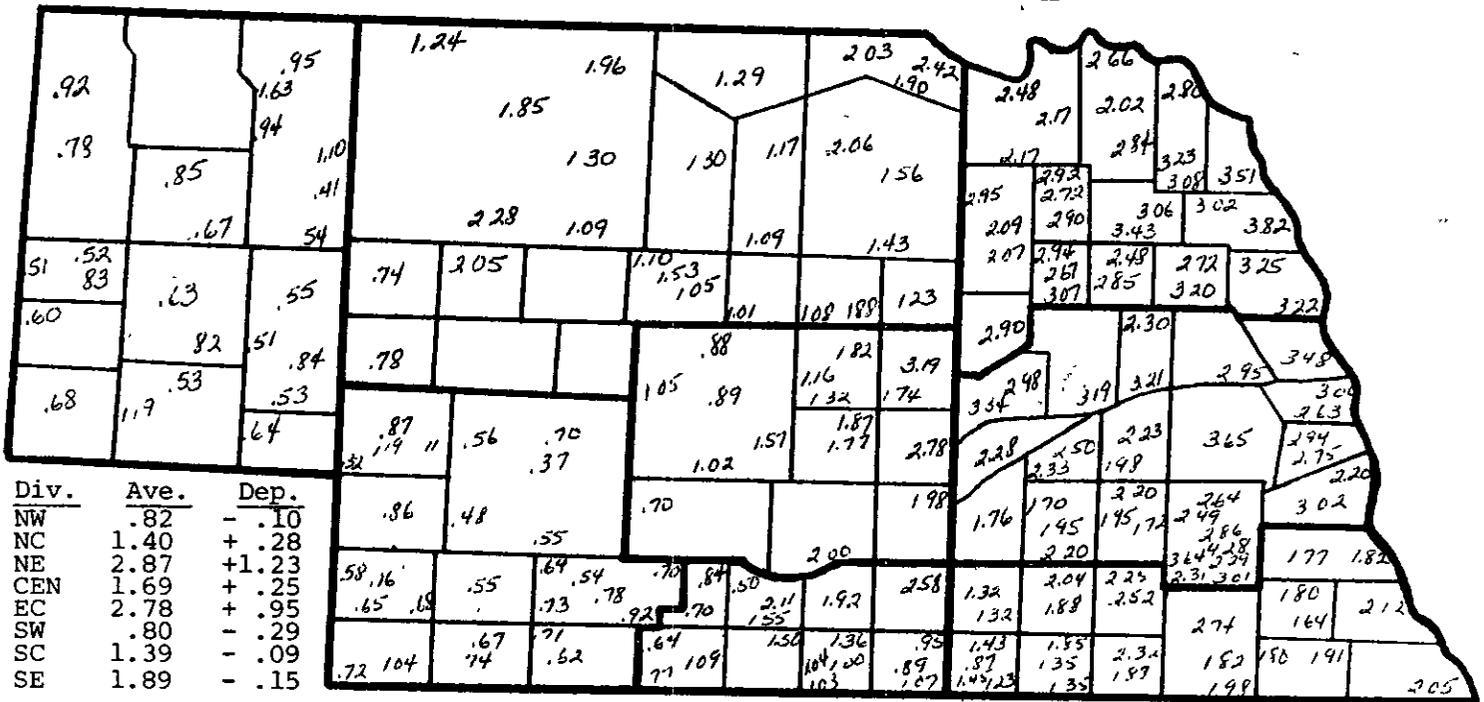
	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week96	1.30	1.75	.86	1.54	.22	.73	.98
Total since April 1	3.17	2.69	2.78	2.67	3.11	1.71	1.14	2.49
Normal since April 190	1.08	1.38	1.16	1.49	.96	1.14	1.49

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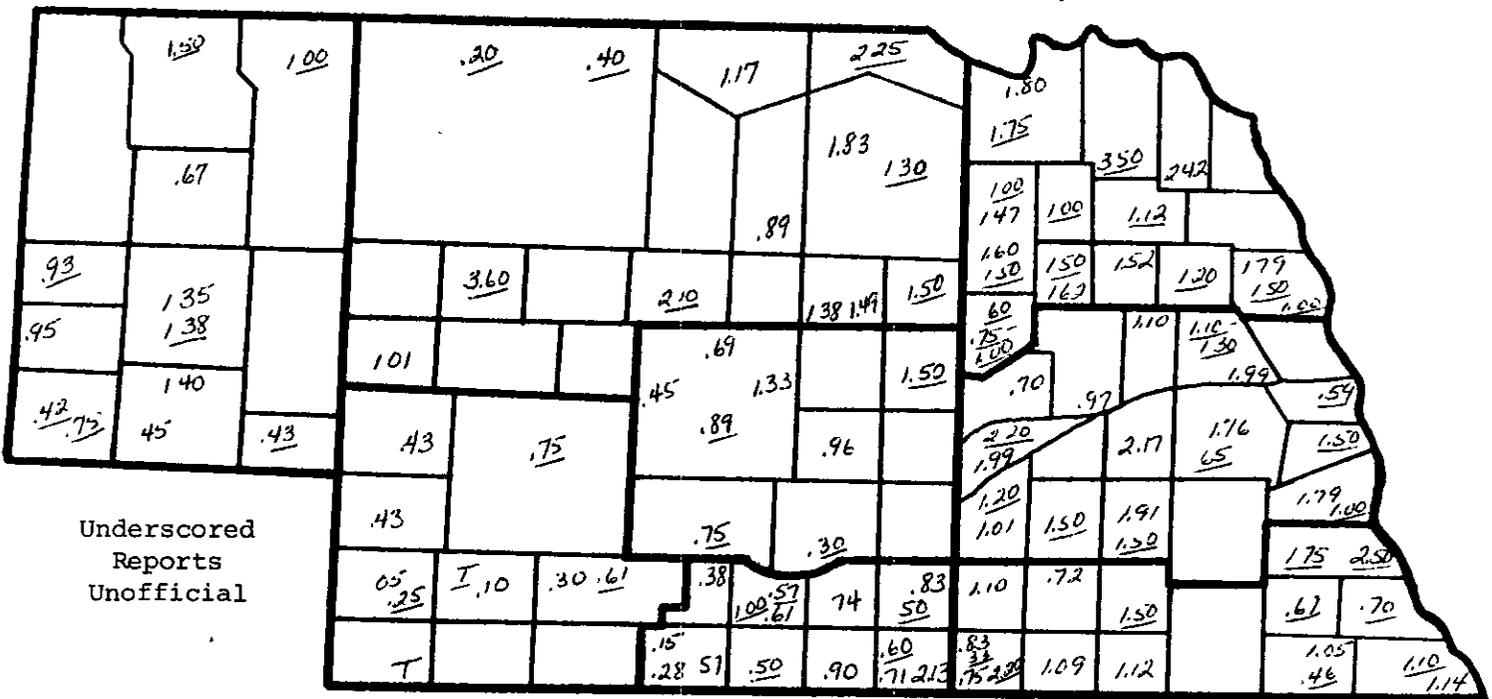
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PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1986 1/



1/ Courtesy of the Center for Agricultural Meteorology and Climatology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1986



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 1986

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	64	13	42	--	1.09
Scottsbluff	63	21	42	-5	1.19
Sidney	63	20	42	--	1.25
NC Ord	66	15	41	--	--
Valentine	63	13	38	-9	.54
NE Norfolk	67	20	44	-6	.83
Sioux City	66	23	44	-7	1.92
CEN Grand Island	67	24	46	-5	.26
EC Lincoln	67	26	47	-5	.60
Omaha	66	24	47	-4	.76
SW Imperial	66	21	45	--	--
North Platte	67	22	44	-4	.42

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.