

Issue NE-CW1404, released April 5, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov). Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending April 4, 2004, producers began working ground in earnest for spring planting as soil temperatures continued to rise, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Subsoil moisture continued to rate very short to short in the western two-thirds of the state. Other producer activities included livestock care, oat planting, and treating army cutworms.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged from 3 degrees below normals to 7 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation amounts were scattered and less than two-tenths of an inch across the state.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending April 4, 2004**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	29		17	15
Short	30		35	24
Adequate	40		47	54
Surplus	1		1	7
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	46		42	15
Short	31		43	33
Adequate	23		15	50
Surplus	0		0	2
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.0		5.6	4.6

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat condition rated 11 percent very poor, 23 poor, 37 fair, 26 good, and 3 excellent, near last year and average. Fields had begun to joint in some southern and eastern counties.

Oat planting was off to a good start with 40 percent seeded to date, ahead of last year at 23 and average at 32. Three percent of the acreage had emerged.

Sugar beet planting was underway in the Panhandle with 4 percent completed to date.

**Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 4, 2004**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Oats Planted	40		23	32
Oats Emerged	3		1	3
Wheat Jointed	8		0	0

**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 4, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	11	23	37	26	3

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Cattle and calf condition rated 9 percent fair, 66 good, and 25 excellent. Spring calving was 80 percent complete with calf losses rated at mostly average.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)*

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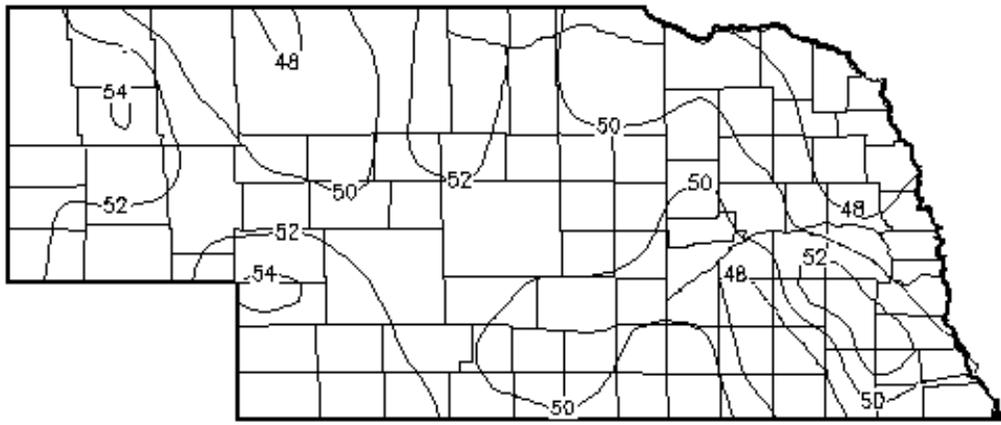
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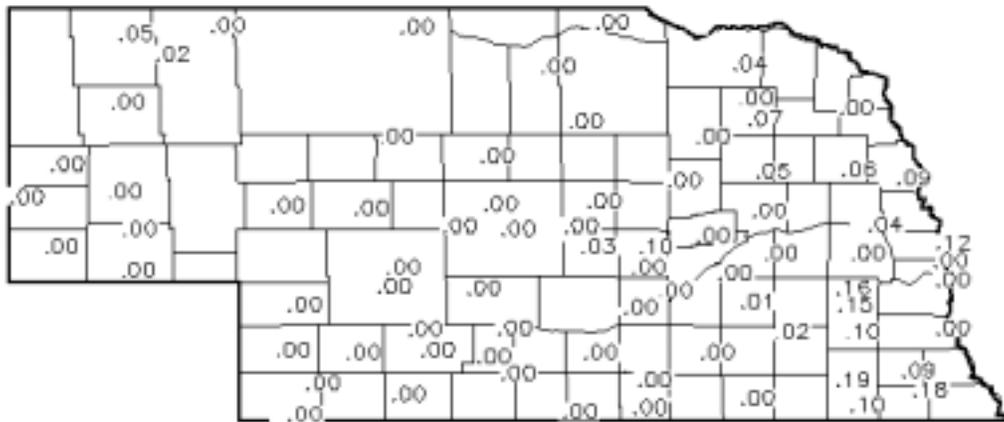
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**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil  
March 29 - April 4, 2004**



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 4, 2004**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 4, 2004**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.01	.01	.04	.01	.07	.01	.00	.07
Total since April 1	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Normal since April 1	.22	.26	.31	.30	.34	.23	.25	.35
Total as % of normal	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

**Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 4, 2004**

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	82	18	47	5
	Scottsbluff	83	17	49	7
	Sidney	80	19	48	6
NC	Ainsworth	70	28	46	3
	Arthur	80	25	47	4
	O'Neill	68	23	44	0
NE	Concord	63	22	43	-1
	Elgin	65	25	44	-1
	West Point	63	24	43	-2
C	Grand Island	66	24	44	-1
	Lexington	70	26	47	2
	Ord	68	23	44	0
EC	Lincoln	63	27	45	-2
	Central City	66	25	45	-1
	Mead	65	24	43	-3
SW	Champion	80	18	46	2
	North Platte	75	18	45	2
	Curtis	73	19	46	2
SC	Arapahoe	80	21	46	3
	Minden	67	25	45	0
	Red Cloud	66	25	45	0
SE	Beatrice	64	26	45	-2
	Clay Center	66	21	44	-2
	Nemaha	65	23	48	-1

Source: High Plains Climate Center.