



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

Nebraska Field Office

100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Phone: 402-437-5541 E-mail: [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov)

Access our reports via the Internet: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Mark Harris, Director



Issue NE-CW1306

Released March 27, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** For the month of March 2006, a large storm during the third full week of the month produced large amounts of snow over the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska. The heavy, wet snow resulted in moisture accumulations of one to two inches. Fieldwork was halted, but the moisture was welcomed by crop producers. The snow made livestock care difficult.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/index](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index)

For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including precipitation and soil temperature maps can also be found at the above address.

**Weather Summary:** As of March 26, snow cover was reported in all districts of the state. Average snow depth ranged from three inches in the southwest to over seventeen inches in north central counties. During the first two weeks of the month average temperatures were above normal. However, temperatures were below normal during the last half of the month.

**Field Crops Report:** **Wheat** conditions were near month ago levels and rated 4 percent very poor, 7 poor, 46 fair, 40 good, and 3 excellent. This is below last year's condition of 59 percent good or excellent. Poorest wheat conditions were reported in the southwest. **Oat** planting was underway in southern counties with 9 percent seeded statewide. **Hay and forage** supplies rated as adequate or surplus across the majority of the state.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 2 percent poor, 14 fair, 67 good, and 17 excellent, below year ago levels. Calving has progressed to 64 percent complete with some calf losses reported due to the storm, but overall losses were below average.

**The following are selected comments from Nebraska's FSA County Executive Directors and Extension Educators:**

## ***NORTH***

**BOYD/HOLT:** Difficulties in caring for livestock as a result of the 20 inch snowfall were at the top of the list of recent activities. Moisture received was very welcome as fires and dust storms were becoming big problems.

## ***NORTHEAST***

**ANTELOPE:** A recent storm dumped approximately 24 inches of snow in the area. Because of the advance warning, most producers were as ready as they could be for the storm. The loss of calves born during the storm would be high if they were out in the open. Newborn calves were covered by snow. Several reports indicated that if they did not find the newborn calves quickly, they chilled and died. Calves born before the storm, for the most part, were in sheds or in sheltered areas and did not have many problems because the departure was 20 degrees or above.

**CEDAR:** The snow storm on the weekend of March 18 - 21 resulted in stress on small calves and older cows. Producers who have shelter for the calves and bedding have had very few problems, but producers where the cows and calves have muddy conditions are reporting some problems.

## ***CENTRAL***

**DAWSON:** We received 12 to 24 inches of snow earlier in the week. The moisture was appreciated more than the form in which it arrived. There were some calf losses 1 or 2 here, 3 or 4 there, but not any super losses. Time will tell in the next week or so if there will be weak, slow growing calves or scours, etc. Some fieldwork has been done, including stalk cutting discing and fertilizer application.

## ***EAST***

**DODGE:** A large snow storm hit the county and some calves were lost. Most of the activities are cleaning out cattle yards and clearing off the building sites to get orders in.

**YORK:** We caught up in snowfall for the year in one big snow storm.

## ***SOUTHWEST***

**FRONTIER:** A huge snowstorm at the beginning of the week brought much needed moisture. The snow was very heavy and fell with little to no wind. Temperatures continue to climb throughout the week so the snow is melting nicely. There has been no attempts at spring planting yet. Ranchers are winding up their calving season and have been reporting a good calf crop.

**PERKINS:** The wet snow received on March 19 and 20 caused some calving problems. Total snow received ranged from 6 to 18 inches.

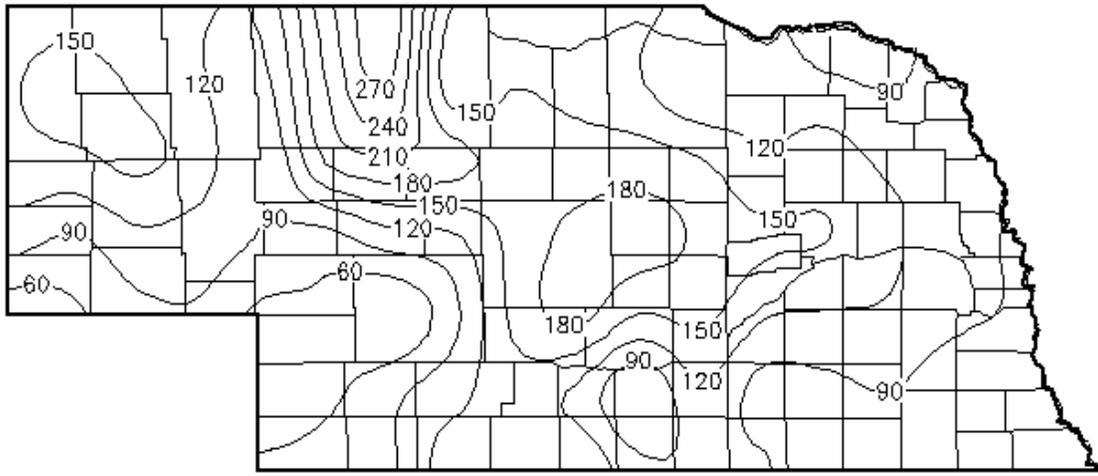
## ***SOUTH***

**HARLAN:** The snow and rain were welcome by all but the new calves. Where I live, we had 15 to 18 inches of snow over the course of three days.

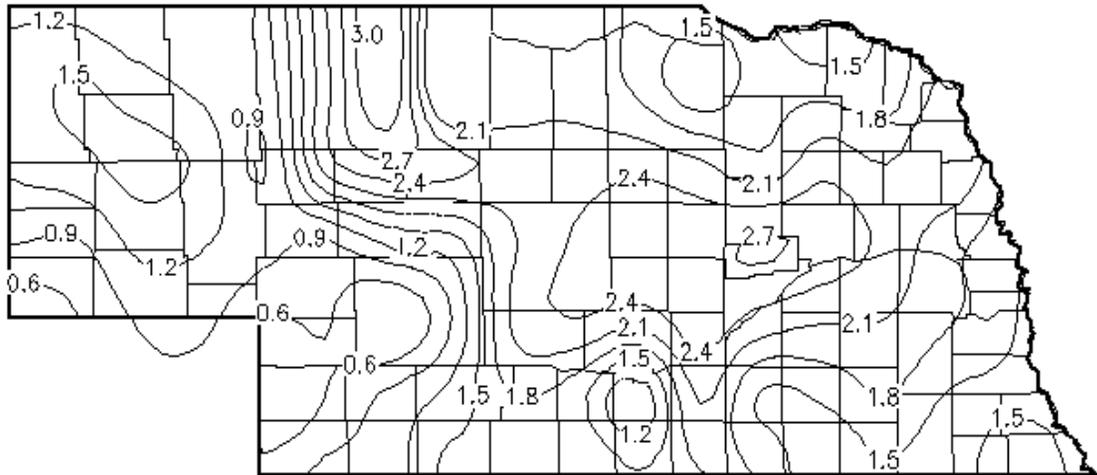
## ***SOUTHEAST***

**JEFFERSON:** Recent snow has done more good than harm due to dry weather.

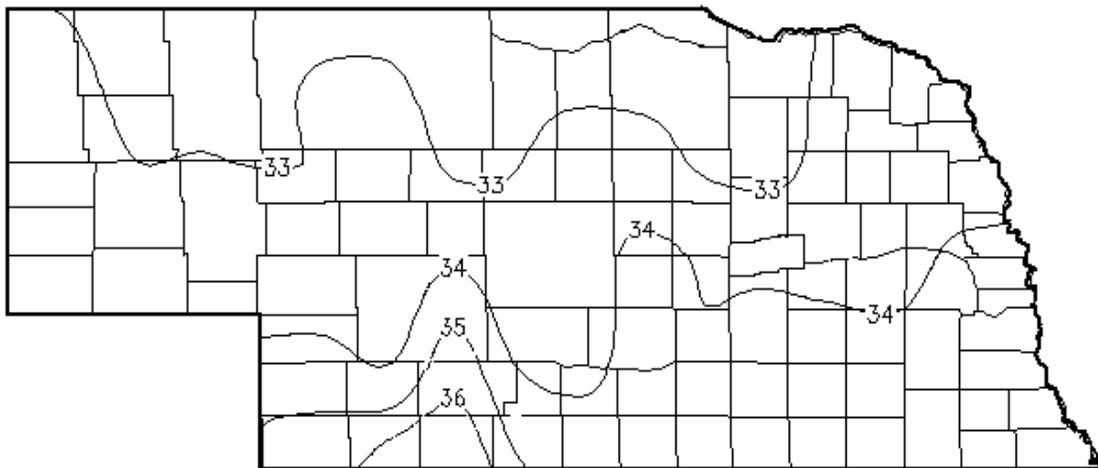
**PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR MARCH 2006<sup>1</sup>**



**PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF MARCH 2006<sup>1</sup>**



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL  
MARCH 20, 2006 - MARCH 26, 2006<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office