



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service
Nebraska Field Office

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 2, 2006, snow melt and precipitation in the form of rain began to recharge soil moisture levels in the eastern half of Nebraska. Statewide, topsoil moisture levels are now above average and year ago levels. Livestock producers were dealing with wet and muddy conditions resulting in some calf losses. Minimal fieldwork has been reported due to the wet soil conditions.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged three to four degrees above normal. Soil temperatures increased ten degrees during the week and averaged in the mid-forties.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending April 2, 2006

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	1		2	15
Short	11		21	26
Adequate	82		76	57
Surplus	6		1	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	13		15	26
Short	40		36	39
Adequate	47		49	35
Surplus	0		0	0
Days Suitable	1.5		3.9	4.7

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions improved due to the recent moisture and rated 3 percent very poor, 7 poor, 35 fair, 50 good, and 5 excellent. This is above last year and better than average.

Oats planted increased slowly to 13 percent, behind last year at 39 and average at 24. Only a few fields had emerged.

Sugarbeet planting was underway in the Panhandle and southwest with 6 percent completed, near last year at 8.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending April 2, 2006

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Oats Planted	13	9	39	24
Oats Emerged	1		5	2

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 2, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Wheat	3	7	35	50	5

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Cattle and calf condition rated 2 percent poor, 17 fair, 69 good, and 12 excellent. Spring calving was 74 percent complete. Despite the wet conditions of the past weeks, calf losses have rated average to below average.

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/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index.asp

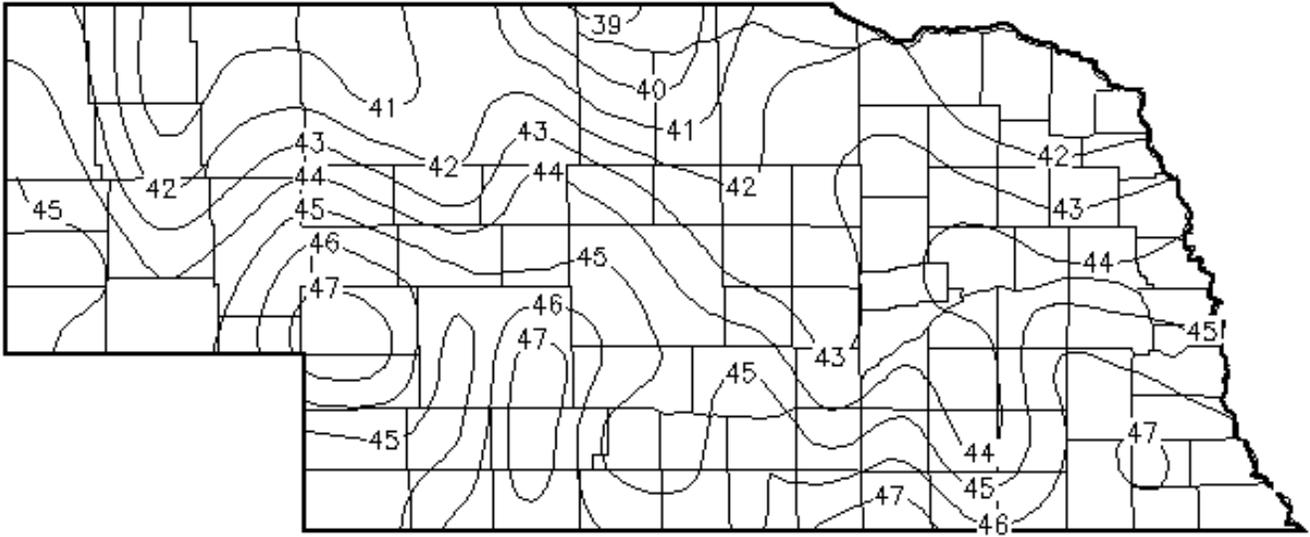
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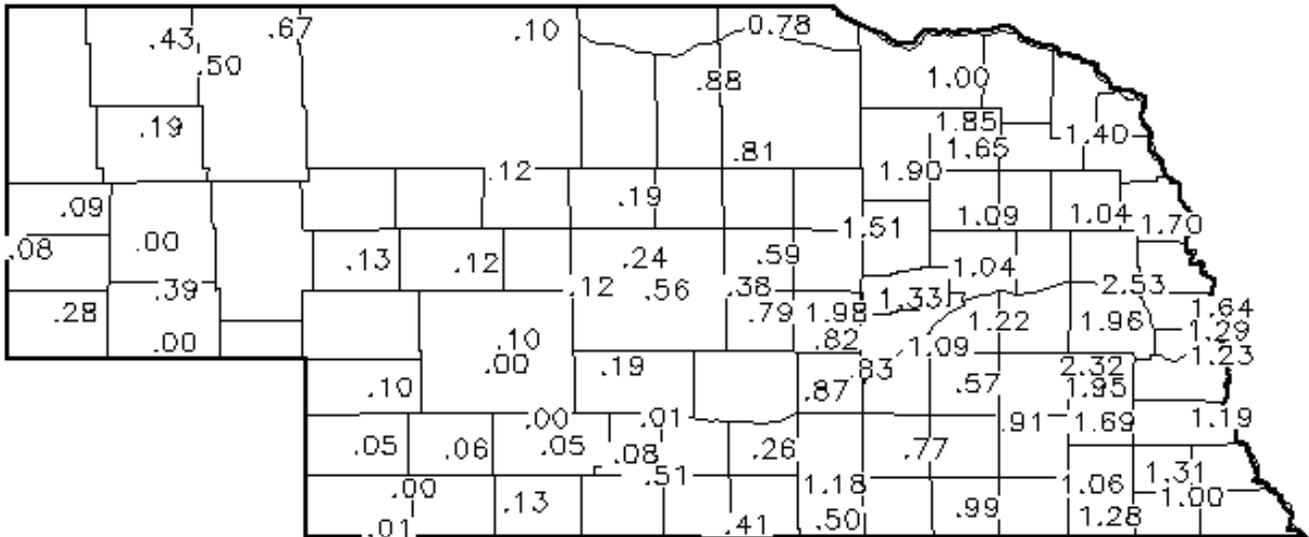
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**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
March 27 – April 2, 2006**



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. April 2, 2006



Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, April 2, 2006

Station	Temperature			
	Extremes		Average	Departure
	High	Low		
NW Alliance	69	23	45	+4
Scottsbluff	70	28	47	+6
Sidney	70	24	45	+4
NC Ainsworth	64	20	44	+1
Arthur	73	24	46	+4
O'Neill	64	21	43	0
NE Concord	67	27	45	+1
Elgin	65	28	44	0
West Point	67	29	46	+1
C Grand Island	70	20	47	+3
Lexington	72	25	50	+7
Ord	69	20	45	+2
EC Lincoln	72	34	51	+6
Central City	72	21	47	+3
Mead	71	29	48	+3
SW Champion	78	20	48	+5
North Platte	na	na	na	na
Curtis	76	22	50	+7
SC Smithfield	72	25	50	+7
Minden	70	26	49	+6
Red Cloud	74	25	51	+7
SE Beatrice	72	30	51	+5
Clay Center	72	24	49	+5
Nemaha	72	37	52	+6

na = Not available.

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office