



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service
Nebraska Field Office

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 15, 2007, another cold, wet week kept anxious producers out of the field, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service, Nebraska Field Office. The freezing temperatures took their toll on alfalfa, oats, and pastures. Warmer weather will be needed to accurately assess the impact on wheat. The weather also affected newborn calves with some losses reported. The first fields of corn were planted in western counties; however, the majority of corn producers were still waiting on warmer conditions as soil temperatures declined to the low 40's. The Panhandle continued in severe drought with significant moisture needed for pastures and wheat.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged 8 degrees below normal as the entire state saw below freezing numbers for the second week in a row. Temperatures ranged from highs in the upper 70's in the Panhandle to lows in the mid-teens in the Southwest District. Precipitation was heaviest in eastern and southern counties but limited in central and western Nebraska.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable for Fieldwork: Nebraska, Week Ending April 15, 2007

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	5	5	4	14
Short	8	7	19	27
Adequate	79	80	74	58
Surplus	8	8	3	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	15	16	14	26
Short	24	26	34	39
Adequate	59	56	51	35
Surplus	2	2	1	0
Days Suitable	2.0	2.0	5.8	5.0

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions declined from last week due to more freezing temperatures and rated 3 percent very poor, 11 poor, 39 fair, 40 good, and 7 excellent, now below last year. Wheat jointed was at 15 percent, ahead of last year's 11 and 9 average.

Alfalfa conditions also declined from last week and rated 8 percent very poor, 24 poor, 40 fair, 25 good, and 3 excellent. This is also well below last year's 70 percent good or excellent condition. Yield prospects from the first cutting have been reduced.

Oats planted increased to 43 percent, well behind last year's 66 and 68 average. Oats emerged was at 15 percent, ahead of last year's 12 but behind the 19 average.

Corn planting was underway mainly in the west but limited to 1 percent statewide. This is behind last year and the five-year average of 3.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending April 15, 2007

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	1		3	3
Oats Planted	43	32	66	68
Oats Emerged	15	6	12	19
Wheat Jointed	15	3	11	9

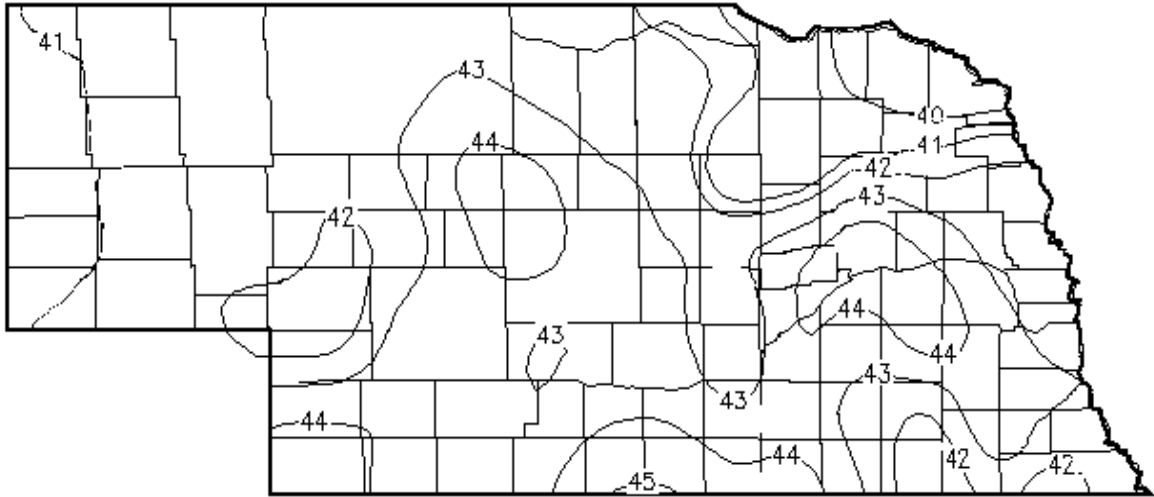
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 15, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	8	24	40	25	3
Wheat	3	11	39	40	7

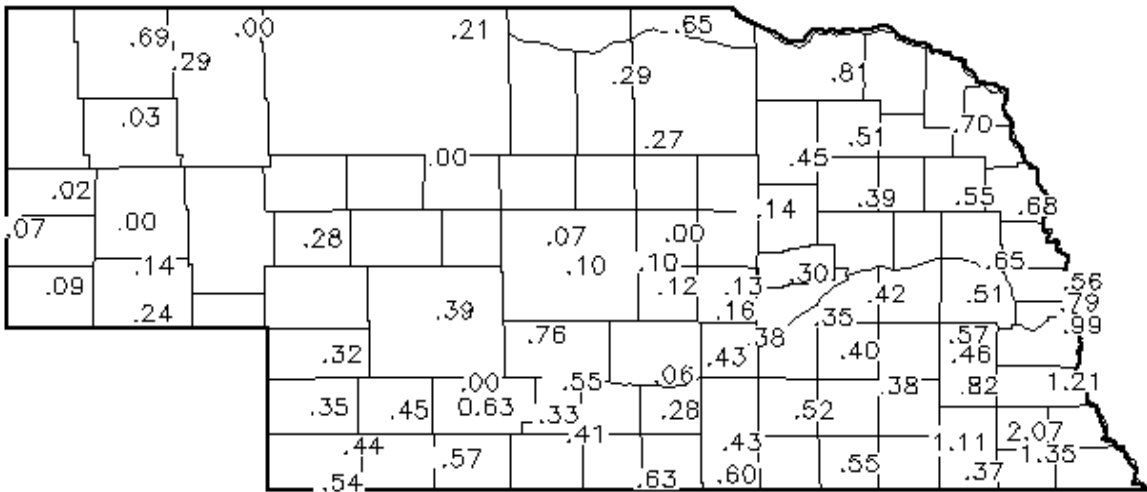
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 16 poor, 42 fair, 36 good, and 2 excellent, well below last year. Cattle and calf conditions rated 9 percent poor, 28 fair, 56 good, and 7 excellent. Spring calving was 86 percent complete. Calf losses rated 4 percent below average, 84 average, and 12 above 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/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm

**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
April 9 – April 15, 2007**



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. April 15, 2007



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – April 15, 2007

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.15	.37	.44	.15	.55	.38	.49	.92
Total since April 1	.35	.56	1.30	.66	.98	.56	.84	1.15
Normal since April 1	.83	1.00	1.20	1.16	1.31	.89	.97	1.33
Total as % of normal	42%	56%	105%	57%	74%	63%	88%	85%

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, April 15, 2007

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	75	19	40	-6
	Scottsbluff	77	18	42	-4
	Sidney	73	18	40	-6
NC	Ainsworth	74	27	41	-8
	Arthur	73	21	41	-8
	O'Neill	71	25	40	-9
NE	Concord	70	20	40	-10
	Elgin	70	23	39	-10
	West Point	69	17	40	-11
C	Grand Island	70	30	42	-8
	Lexington	69	26	42	-7
	Ord	71	26	42	-8
EC	Central City	71	26	41	-9
	Lincoln	69	25	42	-10
	Mead	69	19	41	-11
SW	Champion	71	16	40	-8
	Dickens	70	21	42	-7
	McCook	72	21	43	-6
SC	Minden	68	28	42	-7
	Red Cloud	68	29	42	-8
	Smithfield	69	25	42	-7
SE	Beatrice	68	27	41	-10
	Clay Center	68	28	41	-9
	Nemaha	68	27	42	-10

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