



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the month of December 2007, unseasonably warm temperatures during the first few days quickly came to an end with the state's first major snowstorm and below zero temperatures. The second week saw more snow with the largest amounts accumulating in the Panhandle leaving more than a foot in some areas. The southeast received a heavy ice storm that caused damage to trees and power lines. The winter weather left county roads snow and ice packed making the movement of grain difficult. Livestock producers were using more hay and other supplemental feeds since cattle were not able to utilize stalk fields due to the snow cover. By the last week of the month, temperatures began to moderate.

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

Weather Summary: Depth of snow at the end of December averaged four and a half inches across the state with the Northwest District reporting nearly nine inches. Temperatures averaged below normal the entire month. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 28 in the Northwest District to 34 in the Northeast District.

Field Crops Report: **Wheat** conditions improved as moisture in the form of snow blanketed much of the acreage. Statewide, the crop rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 35 fair, 56 good, and 4 excellent, near last year. **Hay and forage** supplies rated 1 percent very short, 8 short, 89 adequate, and 2 surplus, well above a year earlier.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: **Cattle and Calves** condition rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 17 fair, 78 good, and 4 excellent.

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

NORTHWEST

DAWES: Lots of snow resulting in lots of hay being trucked in.

NORTH CENTRAL

HOLT/BOYD: Typical winter conditions. With snow in corn stalks, ranchers needed to supplement with hay.

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Very cold conditions for the first of the year along with snow cover have been hard on livestock.

THURSTON: Country roads are still snow and ice packed. December snow storms have prevented cow-calf producers from utilizing corn and soybean stock fields as much as in past years. Hay is being fed earlier than normal. Farmers have had a harder time shipping grain from their storage facilities because of the snow and ice.

CENTRAL

DAWSON: Winter has set in; however, the snow has not kept cattle out of stalk fields. Farmers are going to winter meetings, working on taxes, and trying to buy crop inputs that are going through the roof.

EAST CENTRAL

DODGE: Hay supply is somewhat short but a lot of soybean and corn stalks were baled for extra feed. Cattle continue to graze stalks. Producers are going to crop protection clinics and other farm meetings and getting seed orders in.

SOUTHWEST

CHASE/DUNDY/HAYES/HITCHCOCK: We have had good snow cover since December 11.

KEITH/ARTHUR/GARDEN: Ranchers report forage supplies appear to be adequate, well above last year's supply.

SOUTH CENTRAL

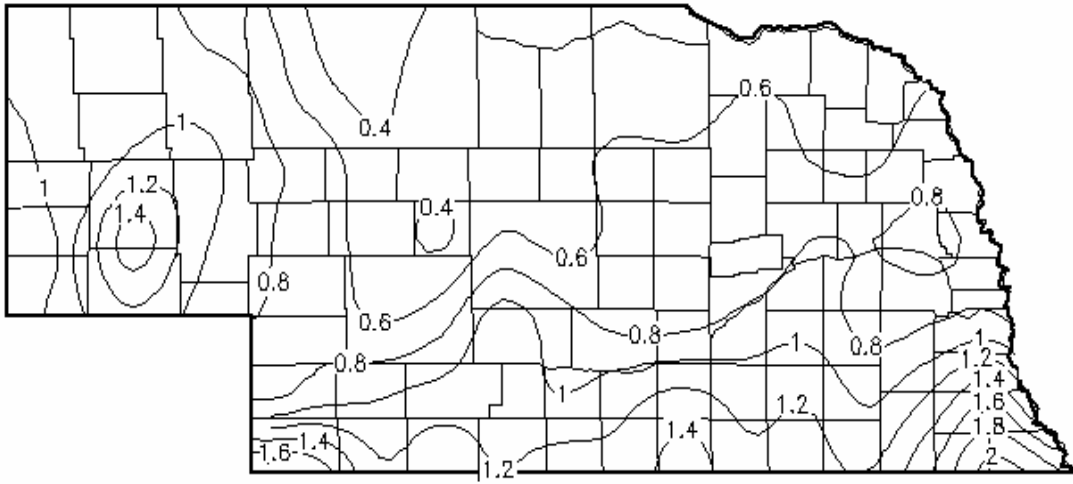
HARLAN: We have had snow and ice cover for 30 days now. Older cows are having a hard time getting around, and corn stalks are covered. Cattle in milo stubble have access to leaves sticking through the snow. Hay supplies are precious at this time, and it is over 100 days until there should be grass.

PHELPS: Cold weather along with ice and snow has caused some problems for livestock producers. Some supplemental feeding has been required because of snow cover on stocks and rangeland.

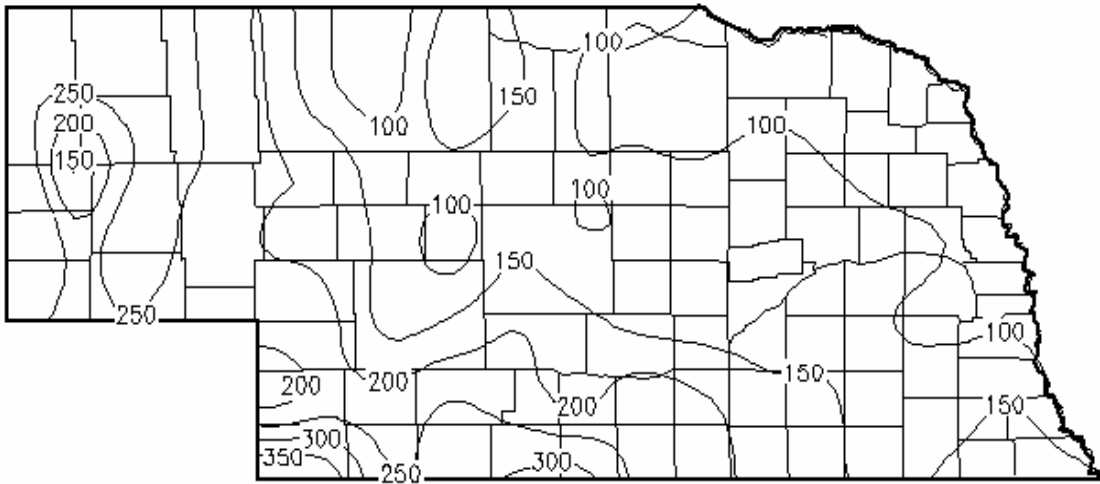


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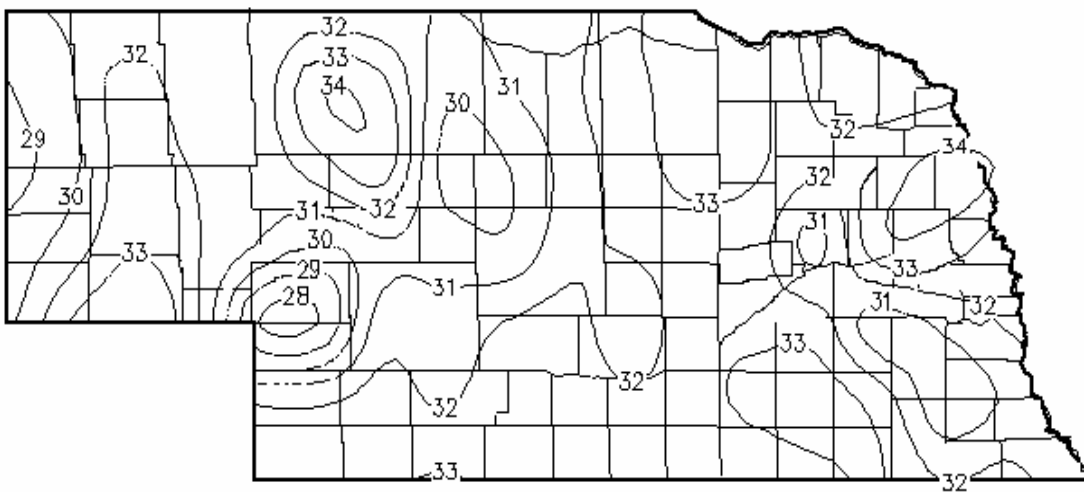
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 2007¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR DECEMBER 2007¹



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
DECEMBER 25, 2007 – DECEMBER 31, 2007¹**



¹ Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office