



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the month of February 2011, temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees below normal for the eastern half of the state and 6 to 10 degrees below normal for the western half. Precipitation in the central and southeastern counties was below normal while the remainder of state received above normal precipitation, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Precipitation was light during February across the Central District with less than .15 inch recorded. Elsewhere, one half to one and a half inches were received. At the end of the month, snow depth was limited across the central third of the state, while northern and southern counties averaged one to three inches of snow cover. Hauling grain to market, preparation for spring planting and livestock care were the main activities during the month. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels. Producers have been feeding cattle due to cold conditions with most feed supplies adequate. Cattle are in good condition with about one quarter of cows having calved.

**Weather Summary:** Precipitation amounts varied during February across most of the state. Average snow depth at the end of January averaged less than 2 inches statewide. By region, snow depth was the heaviest across the northern third and southern third of the state and decreased in depth across the middle third of the state. Temperatures averaged below normal at the beginning and end of the month and above normal for the third week of the month. Average temperatures for the month got warmer moving from north to south across the state. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 28 to 33 degrees. The coolest soils were in the North Central and Central districts and warmer in the other areas of the state.

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat conditions statewide rated 1 percent very poor, 12 poor, 47 fair, 37 good, and 3 excellent, below last year. Hay and forage supplies rated 0 percent very short, 6 short, 92 adequate, and 2 surplus, above a year ago.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** Cattle and Calves condition rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 13 fair, 77 good, and 8 excellent, above last year. Calving progressed to 25 percent complete.

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)

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

***NORTHWEST***

CHEYENNE/BANNER/KIMBALL: Wheat plants turned brown from bitter cold temperatures in early February. Moisture is needed as there is concern about crown and root survival due to dry conditions.

DAWES: Hay supplies are holding up. Calving is moving along well.

SCOTTSBLUFF/MORRILL: Cattle on stalks. Some ground is blowing in high winds.

***NORTHEAST***

CEDAR: Just a few calves on the ground with very few problems. The hay supply is getting a little short for some producers. The cold weather has resulted in feeding more hay than normal.

DIXON: Winter conditions remained quite manageable through the month of February. It appears feed supplies are holding with corn stalks becoming available in some areas after a warm week in the early part of the month. Farm stored grain has steadily been moving to ethanol plants and grain handlers all month. Producers are focusing on land acquisition and preparations for spring planting.

KNOX: Primary activities have been grain marketing, care of livestock, and preparation for crop production season.

***EAST CENTRAL***

DOUGLAS: It has been a nice February.

***SOUTHWEST***

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Wheat is in need of additional moisture in order to have a good stand. Mild weather for the majority of February has been favorable for calving.

KEITH/ARTHUR: Wheat conditions are fair to poor in the area. Reports on calving have been good. The area has received good moisture in the last month with snow and rainfall.

***SOUTH CENTRAL***

FRANKLIN: Soil and wheat conditions are very dry. The snow that we have received has not contained much moisture and the last snow just ran off when it melted. The recent snow we received had good moisture in it which may help. Farmers are calving but none have reported any loss over normal mortality even with the extreme temperatures and wind chills.

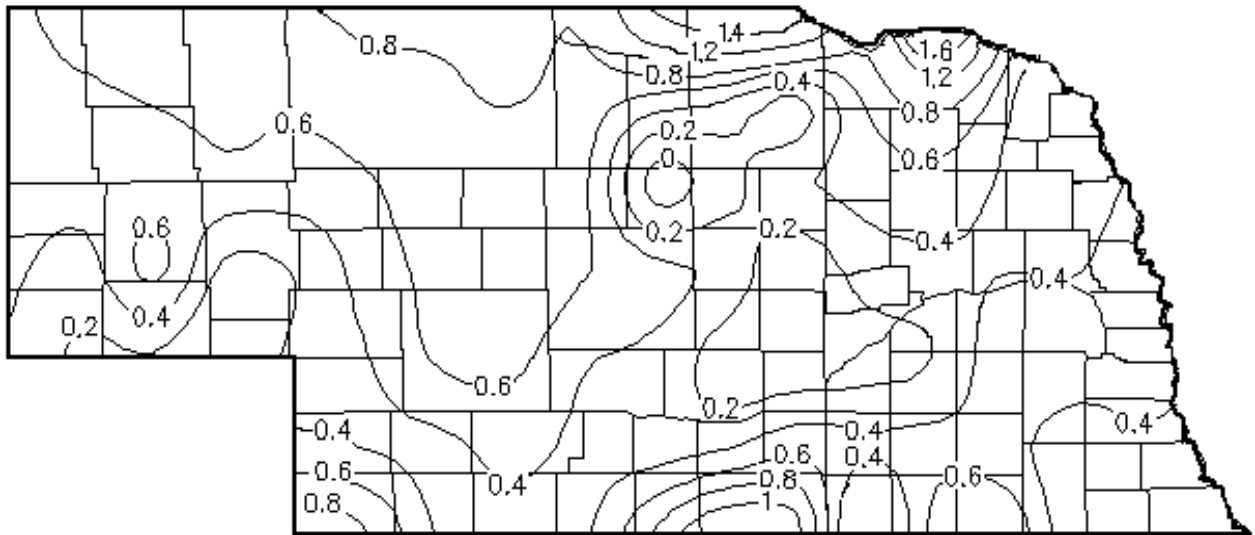
HARLAN: This rapidly changing weather has to be hard on livestock, especially newborn calves. It was 60 degrees on the 23rd, and 9 this morning (25th). I haven't heard of calf losses yet, but it will test everyone's nursing skills after this week.

PHELPS: Calving is going well. Most producers had minimal loss during the very cold weather.

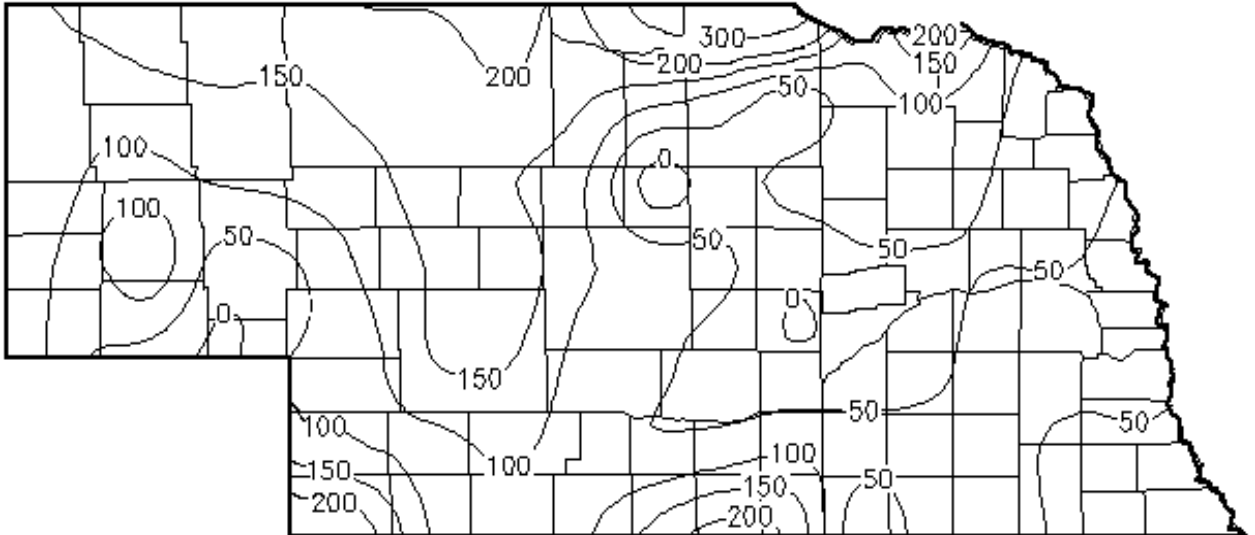
***SOUTHEAST***

FILLMORE: Not much activity. Calving operations primarily begin the 1st week of March. Snow cover is primarily gone. Moisture is a concern for spring.

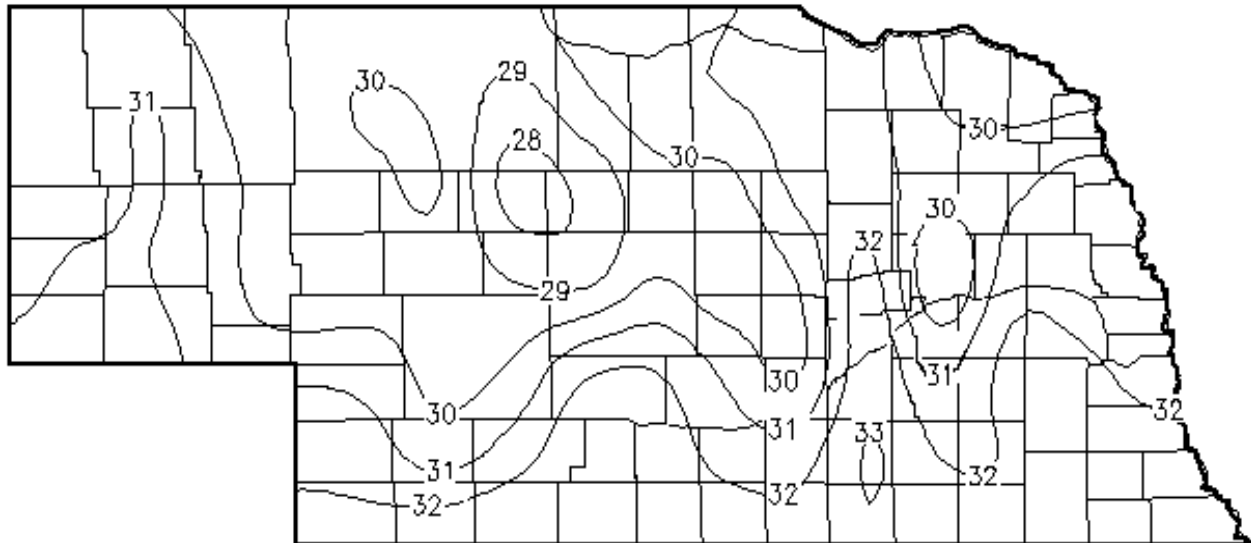
**PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2011<sup>1</sup>**



**PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR FEBRUARY 2011<sup>1</sup>**



**SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL  
FEBRUARY 21, 2011 – FEBRUARY 27, 2011<sup>1</sup>**



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