



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 15, 2012, strong storms late in the week delayed field activities but increased soil moisture levels, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. High winds, tornados and hail damaged property in parts of the state. However, the general rain was welcome and should aid germination of spring planted crops. Corn planting made little progress during the 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Seeding of oats was three-fourths completed with one third of the crop emerged. Wheat jointed at 38 percent was two and half weeks ahead of average creating concern for potential freeze damage. Soil temperatures cooled and ranged from the low 50's in the west to mid 50's in the east. Cattle and calves were in mostly good to excellent condition. Spring calving was 88 percent complete with calf losses below average.

Weather Summary: In general, temperatures averaged one degree below normal across the northern half of the state, and 1 degree above normal across the south. Highs reached the upper 70's and lows fell to the mid 20's in the Panhandle. An inch or more of precipitation was common across the eastern two-thirds of the state with two inches or more reported in portions of eastern and central Nebraska. Amounts were generally less than .5 inch in the Panhandle with some snow reported.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending April 15, 2012**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	7	18	3	3
Short	21	43	16	12
Adequate	67	39	75	76
Surplus	5	0	6	9
Subsoil				
Very Short	9	15	3	6
Short	34	41	25	18
Adequate	56	44	70	73
Surplus	1	0	2	3
Days Suitable	4.6	5.8	4.4	3.4

Field Crops Report: Corn was 4 percent planted, ahead of 2 last year and 1 average.

Wheat jointed was 38 percent, well ahead of 5 percent last year and 6 average. Wheat conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 5 poor, 32 fair, 54 good, and 9 excellent, well above last year's 41 percent good to excellent and 56 average.

Oats planted were at 77 percent, well ahead of 52 last year and one and half weeks of 48 average. Oats emerged was 35 percent, well ahead of 5 last year and 10 average.

Alfalfa conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 7 poor, 28 fair, 50 good, and 15 excellent, below last year's 71 percent good to excellent but near 66 average. Concerns were expressed about insect levels. The first fields of alfalfa were cut.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending April 15, 2012

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	4	1	2	1
Oats Planted	77	50	52	48
Oats Emerged	35	15	5	10
Wheat Jointed	38	10	5	6

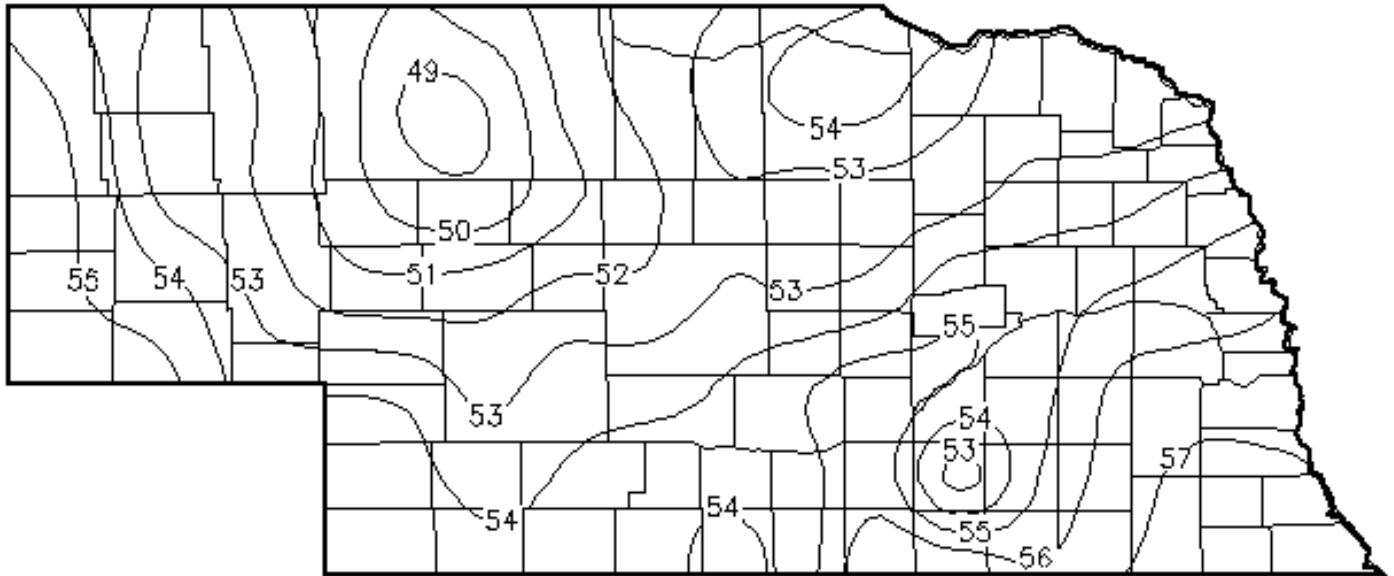
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 15, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	0	7	28	50	15
Wheat	0	5	32	54	9

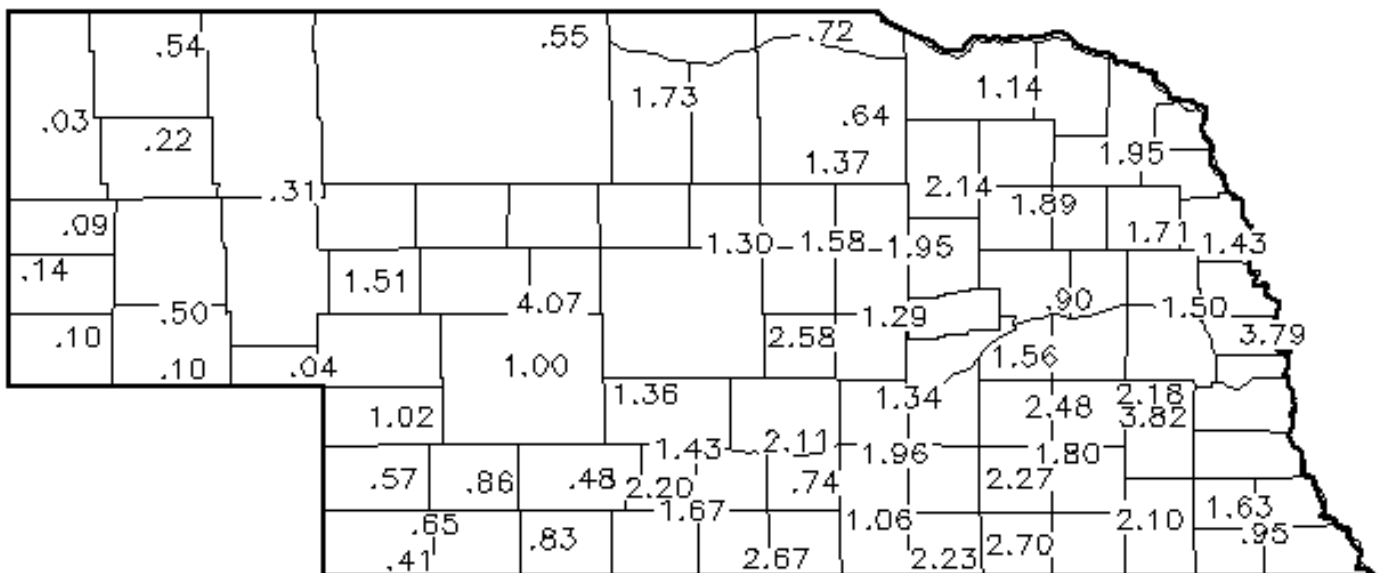
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Cattle and calf condition rated 0 percent very poor, 0 poor, 5 fair, 75 good, and 20 excellent. Spring calving was 88 percent complete. Calf losses rated 34 percent below average, 66 average, and 0 above average. Pasture and range conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 8 poor, 41 fair, 45 good, and 5 excellent.

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/byState/Nebraska/Publications/CropProgress & Condition/cmts_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics/byState/Nebraska/Publications/CropProgress&Condition/cmts_cur.htm)

**Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
April 9 – April 15, 2012**



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. April 15, 2012



Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, April 15, 2012

Station	Temperature			
	Extremes		Average	Departure
	High	Low		
NW Alliance	65	24	45	-2
Scottsbluff	72	25	49	+2
Sidney	68	25	48	0
NC Ainsworth	65	25	47	-2
Arthur	67	31	47	-2
O'Neill	68	23	47	-3
NE Concord	70	26	48	-2
Elgin	68	25	49	-2
West Point	70	28	49	-2
C Grand Island	68	30	50	0
Cozad	71	27	49	0
Ord	67	23	47	-3
EC Central City	70	27	50	-1
Lincoln	77	32	53	+1
Mead	76	26	50	-2
SW Champion	72	32	51	+2
Dickens	72	30	50	+1
McCook	77	35	52	+3
SC Minden	70	30	50	+1
Red Cloud	73	33	53	+3
Smithfield	69	30	50	+1
SE Beatrice	77	33	54	+2
Clay Center	72	31	51	+1
Nemaha	76	34	55	+3

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