



Nebraska Weather and Crops

100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 437-5541 · (402) 437-5547 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov



Issue NE-CW0413

Released January 28, 2013

Agricultural Summary: For the month of January 2013, temperatures averaged near normal while precipitation was well below normal across most of the state, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Precipitation was light during January with most areas receiving less than a quarter of an inch of moisture, and at the end of the month, most of the State was free of snow cover. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated as short to very short across most of the State, largely unchanged from last month. Wheat condition continued well below year ago levels with most of the crop rated fair to poor. Cattle are in mostly good condition with the first calves of the season being born. Cattle have made good use of stalks where available.

Weather Summary: Below normal precipitation fell during January across most of the state. This resulted in little or no snow cover at the end of January. The greatest amounts of precipitation in the form of rain and snow fell across Northwestern and Southeastern border counties, but accumulations amounted to little more than .50 inch of moisture. Temperatures averaged 2 to 3 degrees below normal for the western half of the state and up to 3 degrees above for portions of the eastern half. During the last week of the month, soil temperatures ranged from 26 to 33 degrees, below year ago levels.

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions statewide rated 15 percent very poor, 35 poor, 42 fair, 8 good, and 0 excellent, well below last year. Hay and forage supplies rated 23 percent very short, 31 short, 46 adequate and 0 surplus, well below year ago levels.

Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Cattle and Calves condition rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 23 fair, 68 good, and 7 excellent, below last year. Cows that have calved since January 1, was 5 percent.

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

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

NORTHWEST

BOX BUTTE: Winter crops across the state continue in a state of stress. Warm temperatures make the wheat and evergreens try to grow. Windy, dirty days are common and there is little if any subsoil moisture to keep plants going. Rain fed moisture is needed to survive and this is less than normal, even for this relatively dry time of year. This is as challenging as it has been in years. All is not lost as snow and rain can still rescue a crop that dies a thousand deaths.

DAWES: Very little snow to provide moisture for the spring crops. Warm and dry.

SHERIDAN: Still very dry with the last snow gone. Temperatures show a warming trend which could set us up for problems with winter wheat again. Calving will start in earnest in February with producers already feeding hay stocks.

NORTHEAST

BOONE: Very little moisture and a few days of extreme cold, but mostly warm conditions for the month.

DIXON: Early calving just got started. Cow-calf operators are feeding mostly corn stalk and bean stubble bales along with protein supplement to help keep the feed expenses down. Moisture for spring planting continues to be a major concern.

KNOX: Cattle have gotten good use from corn stalks. Mixed rations have been creative as producers look for the least cost.

CENTRAL

BUFFALO: Most corn stalks have been either put up as stover or are about grazed out. Snow cover has all but melted away. What remains is only in shaded areas or heavily drifted areas. Calving just beginning.

EAST CENTRAL

DODGE: Winter wheat is holding up even without snow cover. Cattle continue to graze stalks.

SOUTHWEST

CHASE: We continue to be very short on moisture. Pasture stocking rates for the coming year are going to be cut back drastically. Some by 50% and some are not going to allow any cows in the pasture at all.

HAYES/HITCHCOCK: Still very dry. We've had a very mild winter so far. Calving should start pretty strong the middle of February.

LINCOLN: Very dry and hay and forages are short.

SOUTH CENTRAL

FRANKLIN: Cattle are in good condition. Snow has melted. As of this time, adequate feed stuffs. It's hard to tell anything about the wheat yet.

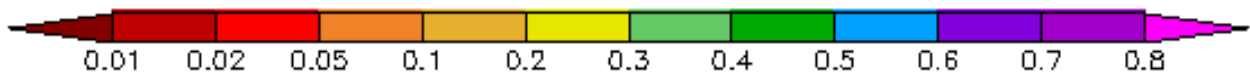
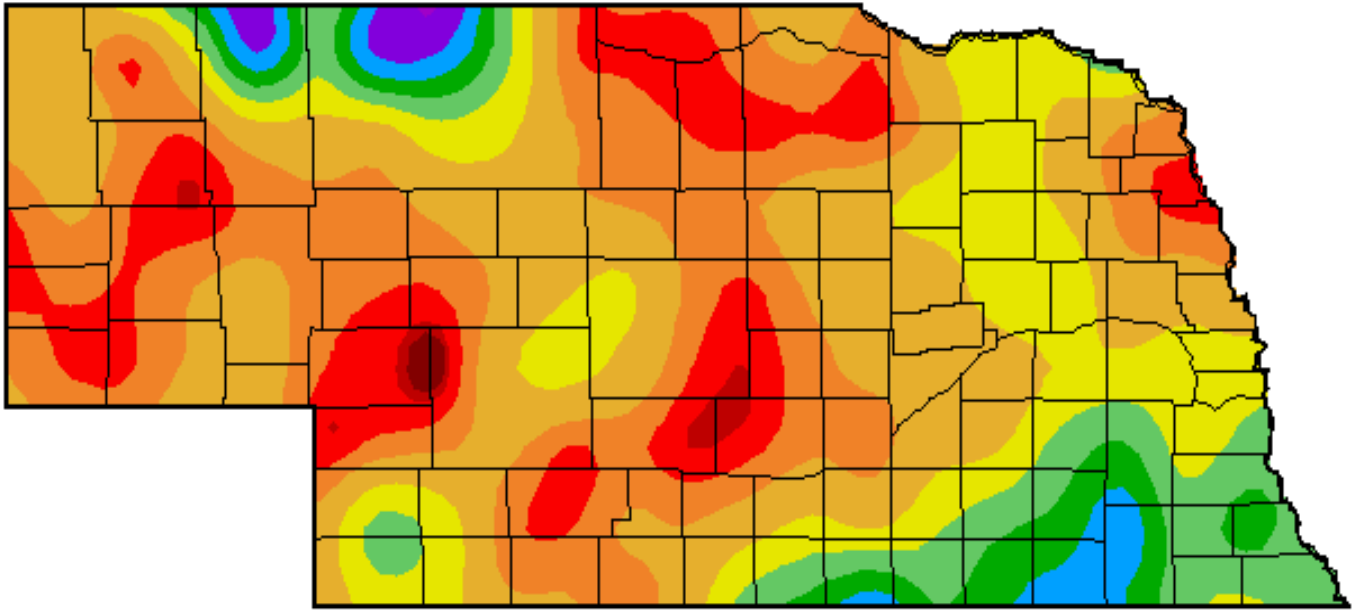
PHELPS: Cows are finding adequate feed in the stalk fields with a little supplement feed. The snow cover is almost gone. Calving has not begun yet in the area. The moisture from the December snow was welcome but it is still very dry.

WEBSTER: Snow cover caused extra feeding for cattle as they did not have access to stalks. During January, quite a bit of snow but not much moisture in it. Hay stocks getting short as harvest was short and needs were high before going into winter.

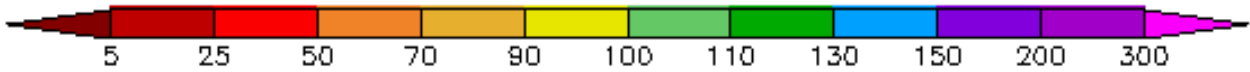
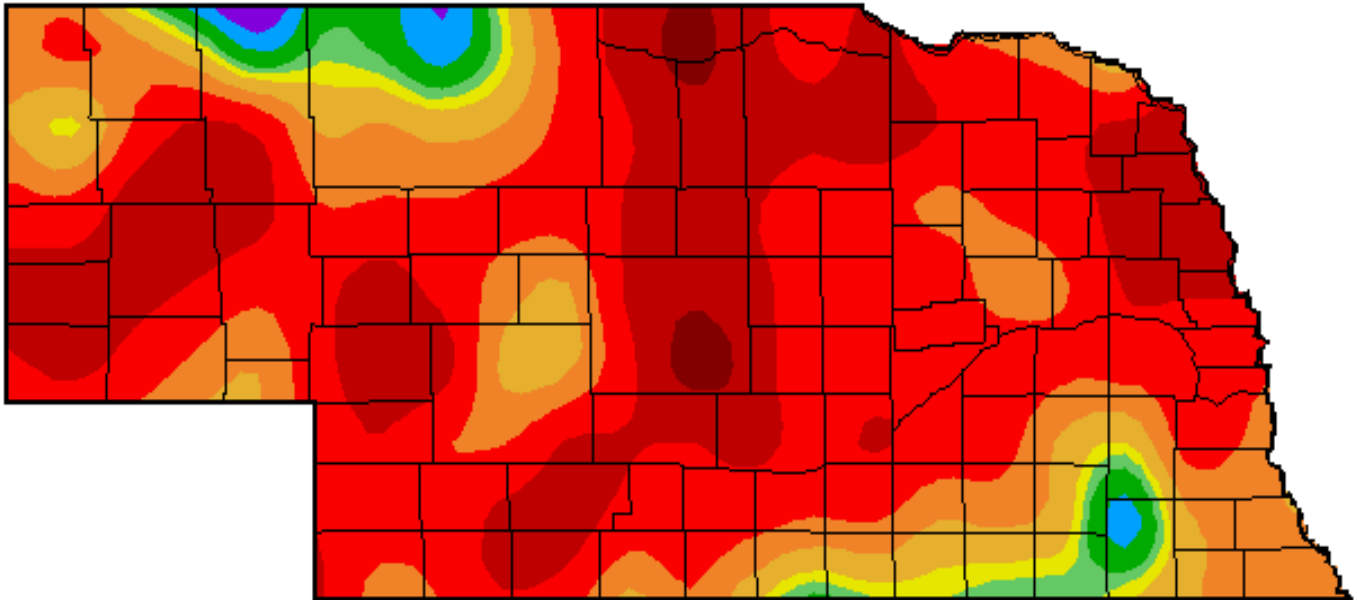
SOUTHEAST

GAGE: We are short of subsoil moisture. However, we have received normal moisture in Oct, Nov, Dec, and Jan. That isn't a lot, but we are not as dire as some believe.

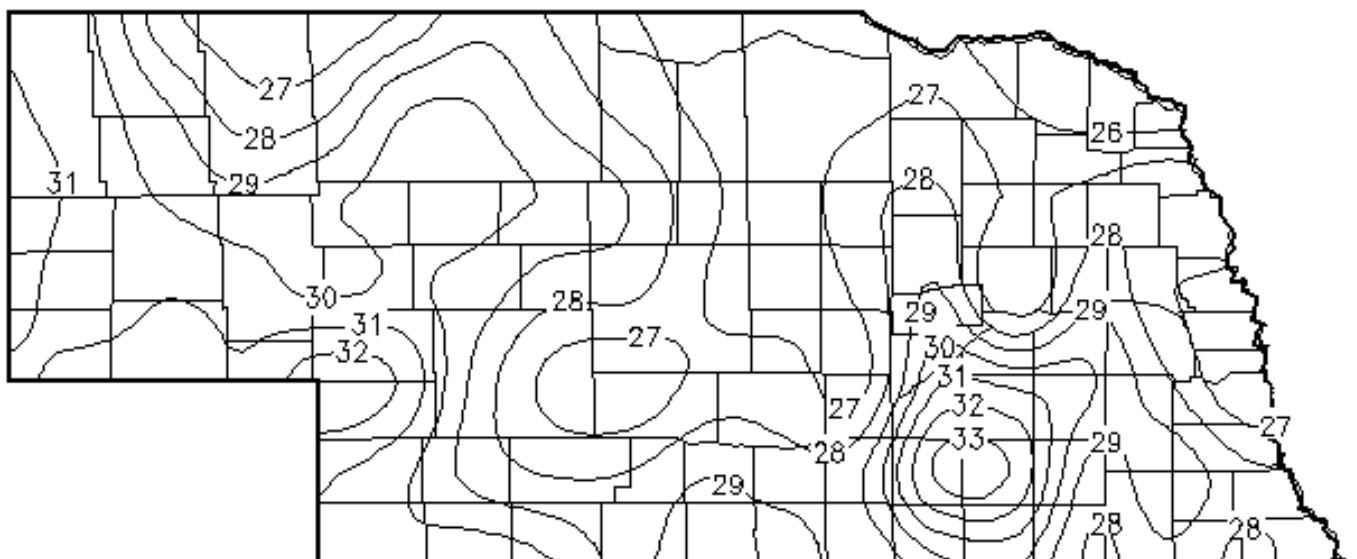
PRECIPITATION IN INCHES JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 27, 2013¹



PRECIPITATION AS PERCENT OF NORMAL FOR JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 27, 2013¹



SEVEN DAY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FOUR INCH DEPTH UNDER BARE SOIL
JANUARY 21, 2013 – JANUARY 27, 2013¹



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