

## 2001 - Weather in Review

### Month by Month Review

**January....** While it didn't feel it at times...temperatures averaged 4 to 6 degrees above normal for the month. The year started with sub-zero temperatures New Years Day morning..but before the week ended..after noon high temperatures soared into the middle 50s and 60s on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures ranged from 9 below zero at Greeley on the 20<sup>th</sup> ...to 70 degrees at Plainville, Kansas on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Most reporting sites were a quarter to a half inch above normal in precipitation. Greeley, Nebraska was one of the "snowy spots"...reporting 1.56 inches of liquid moisture...and 18.0 inches of snow that tied with January 1993...Greeley's all-time snowiest January. Several reporting stations finished the month breaking into the top ten snowiest January's of record for their location.

**February....** was a month of pluses in moisture...and minuses in temperature. It seemed a trend similar to January was developing when the month began with sub-zero lows on the 2<sup>nd</sup>...followed by afternoon high temperatures that rocketed back in to the middle 40s and 50s on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The cold eventually won out...with average temperatures some four to eight degrees below normal. The month turned out to be the 5<sup>th</sup> coldest February at Beloit, Kansas...the 7<sup>th</sup> coldest at Greeley, Nebraska and the 10<sup>th</sup> coldest at Hastings. Extremes for the month ranged from 17 below zero at Greeley on the 2<sup>nd</sup>...to 64 degrees at Phillipsburg on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Again...moisture was plentiful in February...Superior's 2.32 inches...and Hebron's 2.60 inches both finished as the most February precipitation since 1948. Several stations also broke into the Top Ten for February snowfall...with Phillipsburg, Kansas having its snowiest February since 1900 with 23.0 inches. Beloit's 20.0 inches of snow for the month tied with 1965 as the snowiest February since 1947. Most locations finished the month with around 11 inches of snow.

**March....** was cooler than normal by 1 to 3 degrees...and drier than normal by 1 inch to...1.5 inches at most reporting stations. The "High/Low" distinctions went to Beaver City with a high of 71 degrees on the 20<sup>th</sup>...and Hebron with a morning low of zero on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The greatest 24-hour rainfall occurred at Holdrege when 0.58 inches fell on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Snowfall for March was under par...with Beaver City receiving the most snow at 7.0 inches.

**April....** did not follow March's lead and finished above normal in both categories of temperature and precipitation. A warmup at the end of the month kept the monthly average temperature some 1 to 4 degrees above normal. The "Death Valley" award went to Plainville, Kansas where the thermometer peaked at 89 degrees on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The coldest temperature was 19 degrees at Greeley on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Moisture for the month proved beneficial for several locations after the previous month's shortage...with April totals finishing one to two inches above normal. Superior...York...Beloit and Plainville were between 0.50 inch to 1.25 inches short on precipitation while Gothenburg was the monthly rainfall leader with 5.12 inches of precipitation which became the 8<sup>th</sup> wettest April since 1895.

**May....** was the second month running with above normal temperature and precipitation. A handful of stations finished the month with over 10 inches of rain. Portis, Kansas reported 14.41 inches of rain while Hardy, Nebraska closed out the month with 12.52 inches of rain. Guide Rock, Nebraska also obtained membership in the "Over a Foot Club" with 12.28 inches of moisture. For many locations it was the wettest May in over 50 years. Mankato, Kansas with 10.14 inches finished second to it's all-time May record of 11.47 inches set in 1981. Burr Oak, Kansas with 11.45 inches failed to come close to it's all-time May record of 13.70 inches set in 1903. Other Nebraska stations receiving over 10 inches of rain for the month include...Shickley 4 miles south...11.54 inches...Nelson...10.35 inches and Superior...11.84 inches. Kansas stations breaking the 10.00 inch barrier included Burr Oak...11.45 inches...Lebanon...10.73 inches and Mankato...10.14 inches. The "cool place to be" in May was Gothenburg...where the morning low dipped to 30 degrees on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Grand Island and Holdrege shared the month's warmest temperature...96 degrees on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**June....**turned dry across Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas after a two month run of above normal precipitation. While most reporting stations finished the month with a 0.5 to 3.0 inch deficit... Plainville, Kansas stood out with 4.98 inches of rain for the month...aided by 1.82 inches of rain that fell June 8<sup>th</sup>. June average temperatures were within a degree of normal for most locations with Gothenburg the cool spot with an average monthly temperature 2.3 degrees below the 70.6 degree normal. The high temperature for the month was 103 degrees at both Beaver City on the 17<sup>th</sup>...and Phillipsburg on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**July....**was a hot month across the board. Days in the “Hot Hundreds” pushed average monthly temperatures as much as 5.8 degrees above normal at Phillipsburg...and generally 1 to 3 degrees above normal for most other locations. Beaver City finished the month with the most days above 100 degrees...12...followed by Phillipsburg with 11 days. The highest recorded temperature for the month was 109 degrees at Beaver City on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>...and also at Phillipsburg on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. July rainfall was split with some locations falling around 2 inches short...and others 3 inches above normal. The lion’s share of rain fell south of the Platte River Valley into Kansas...with Long Island, Kansas receiving a whopping 9.79 inches of rain for the month.

**August....**was another hot month ...with most average monthly temperatures ranging a degree or two above normal. The area hot spot was Phillipsburg...where during the first 9 days of the month the daily high temperature registered 100 degrees or higher...which included 3 days of 103 degree heat. The coolest temperature of the month occurred at Greeley with a morning low of 46 degrees on the 19<sup>th</sup>. August rainfall was spotty...roughly a quarter inch to an inch below normal for most...with a few locations ending the month 1.5 to 2.0 inches above normal. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 3.02 inches at Holdrege on the 15<sup>th</sup>...followed by Greeley with 2.89 inches on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**September....**remained warm...but it was a wetter than normal month for most. The warmest temperature was 97 degrees at Beaver City on the 3<sup>rd</sup>...with the coldest at Greeley...31 degrees on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were a few sites with below normal precipitation...but most stations finished around a half inch to 3 inches above normal. Hastings earned the distinction of having the most rainfall in a 24 hour period when 3.65 inches of rain fell during the evening the 14<sup>th</sup>

**October....**was close to normal when considering temperature...with most locations falling within a degree or two of the monthly norm. The only anomaly that stood out was Phillipsburg where the average monthly temperature finished almost 3 degrees below normal. The “Hot Spot” award went to Beaver City with a high of 91 degrees on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. October’s killing freeze came primarily on two dates...the 16<sup>th</sup> for areas west and north of Grand Island...and the 27<sup>th</sup> for areas south and east. The “Freezer” award was claimed by Greeley on the 16<sup>th</sup> when the thermometer dropped to 19 degrees. There was a shortage of moisture during the month with the largest shortfall at York where only about a half inch of rain...0.56...was measured.

**November....**finished out as either the warmest or 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest November since the turn of the last century. Average monthly temperatures were 4...to almost 11 degrees warmer than those found in a normal November. Most locations finished about half inch above normal in moisture on the Nebraska side of the border while the Kansas side came out about a half inch short for the month. While it was a warm month...snow did manage to fall on the 27<sup>th</sup> with our northern and western tier of sites receiving between a half inch to two inches of snow. Ord was the snow leader for November with 5.5 inches of the white stuff. The warmest temperature of the month was 79 degrees at both Beloit and Beaver City...with the coldest...1 degree at Gothenburg on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**December....**was a warm and dry month for the Tri-cities of Grand Island...Hastings and Kearney. Daytime high temperatures were in the 40s and 50s for most of the month but finished out much cooler with highs only in the 20s. Even with the cool down...average monthly temperatures finished some 6 to 8 degrees warmer than normal. The monthly moisture was about a half inch to three quarters of an inch below normal with most falling on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Snowfall for December ranged from a trace at Kearney...to 1.7 inches at Hastings.