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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
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Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
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NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

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Week Ending 7-14-52

WEATHER Temperatures averaged below normal during the week, with unseasonably cool weather at the beginning, warm during the middle and turning cool at the close. Rainfall was heavy to excessive over the south-central and southeastern portions of the state, and light to moderate elsewhere occurring mostly as showers and thunderstorms during the last two days. There was much sunshine and wind movement was generally rather low.

CROPS About 78% of the wheat was harvested by the close of last week. Most of the unharvested wheat is in northern and Panhandle counties. Rains have delayed harvesting this week but next week should see the finish, including extreme north-western Nebraska. This week's returns indicate that the yield will support, if not exceed, the official July 1 estimate of 23 bushels per acre. The damage from the heat wave was not as large as expected but will probably amount to 10% or 12%.

The loss of winter wheat, 305,000 acres, was largely from hail, leaving 4,302,000 acres the third largest harvested acreage. The crop of nearly 99 million bushels exceeds the previous record in 1947 by 7 million bushels. The yield of 23 bushels was reached in 1906, 1945 and 1946 and exceeded only in 1942 when it averaged 24 bushels.

The substantial rainfall covering all but a small part of the Corn Belt has brought corn much nearer to a bumper crop. Corn lacks rain in a half dozen south-western counties where some of the top leaves had started to burn. Most of the sub-soil is now saturated and if ample rainfall is received between now and August 15, a bumper crop will be assured. Corn is early and 8% of it had tasseled by the close of last week. Corn has an exceptionally dark green color and luxurious growth. The area for harvest, 7,080,000 acres, is the smallest in the past ten years, but the July 1 forecast of nearly 255 million bushels has been exceeded only in 1896, 1923, 1927, 1932 and 1944.

The harvest of oats is well advanced with yields varying from failure to very good yields. Because of the greatly increased acreage, the crop is estimated at nearly 60 million bushels, only slightly below that of last year. The barley acreage is much smaller and the production about 70% of last year. Both crops were damaged by the heat wave. Some counties report a large percent of the oats cut for hay.

Rains are reviving the pasture in eastern and southern Nebraska except five or six southwestern Nebraska counties. The Panhandle has received good rains but most of the Sandhills need rain badly. The wild hay crop in the Sandhills was reduced by June drouth and heat. The July 1 estimate of all hay was 9% below last year's crop. The recent substantial rain should give a good start to the third crop of alfalfa. The second crop of alfalfa was light. The rains gave quite a boost to forage crops. There is a 24% reduction in sorghum acreage.

Feed grains are ample in 83% of the counties with 5% reporting a surplus and 12% a shortage. Hay and forage is generally reported ample to surplus. About 14% of the counties report a shortage of range and pasture and the balance ample. After the recent rains moisture was generally ample except for a half dozen southwestern counties and the Sandhills. The surface moisture was reported short prior to the recent rains and a few counties reported subsoil moisture short but most of them reported ample.

The increase of 2,000 acres of sugar beets planted was less than expected and there is considerable damage from hail. The area of potatoes for harvest is up 3,000 acres with about the same production as last year but only about 60% of the 1941-50 average. There was a reduction of about 17% in the acreage of dry edible beans for harvest and the forecast of production is lower. There were 90,000 acres of soybeans planted, an increase of 50%. 1200

