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Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



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Release 5/13/74

Week Ending 5/13/74

WEATHER

Temperatures were above normal the first part of the week and below normal thereafter. Precipitation in the form of showers and thunderstorms occurred intermittently the latter two-thirds of the week over the State. The heaviest amounts occurred over the eastern third with some rainfall up to 2.75 inches.

CROPS

Nebraska farmers and ranchers enjoyed another week of nearly ideal planting conditions and made tremendous progress. Farmers, in some areas, have begun irrigating because of prevailing dry conditions. Crops on sandy soils in parts of Nebraska are showing signs of stress from the lack of precipitation. Alfalfa weevil continues to be a problem in fields in many areas.

Winter wheat condition is good or excellent in 83% of counties, down 2 points from last week. The crop has been making rapid growth and development but is showing signs of stress from the lack of moisture in many areas. Some farmers in the Panhandle area are still considering abandoning wheat fields heavily infested with downy brome. Downy brome can significantly affect yield in heavily infested fields.

Farmers made good progress planting corn last week due to favorable weather throughout Nebraska. County agents report approximately 70% of the corn acreage planted compared to 30% last year and normal. Some farmers are still delaying their plantings until moisture is received. Corn seed is now lying in dry soil in some areas. Early plantings are up in some localities. A good general rain is needed throughout much of Nebraska. Farmers have begun irrigating some fields and others are getting ready to do so.

Sorghum and soybean acreages are about 10% planted.

Alfalfa hay condition ranges mostly fair to good. Condition has changed considerably in many areas due to the alfalfa weevil invasion. County agents report the crop as good in 60% of counties, 27% fair, 10% excellent and 3% poor. In areas of heavy infestation most farmers are spraying or mowing their stands for control. Control chemicals are in short supply in some localities. Wild hay is in generally good condition. However, prevailing dry conditions continue to retard growth. The crop condition is 68% good, 23% fair, and 9% excellent.

GENERAL

Nebraska farmers and ranchers made tremendous planting progress during the survey week (May 4-10). For the third week in a row farmers enjoyed 6 days suitable for fieldwork. The main activities were fertilizing, discing, plowing, planting row crops, summer fallowing, applying herbicides and insecticides.

Topsoil moisture supplies remained nearly unchanged from a week ago. Topsoil moisture is short in 52% of counties and adequate in 48%. Subsoil moisture supplies continued to decline with 83% of counties adequate, 15% short, and 2% surplus. Rains received near the end of the week weren't enough to replenish supplies in many areas.

LIVESTOCK

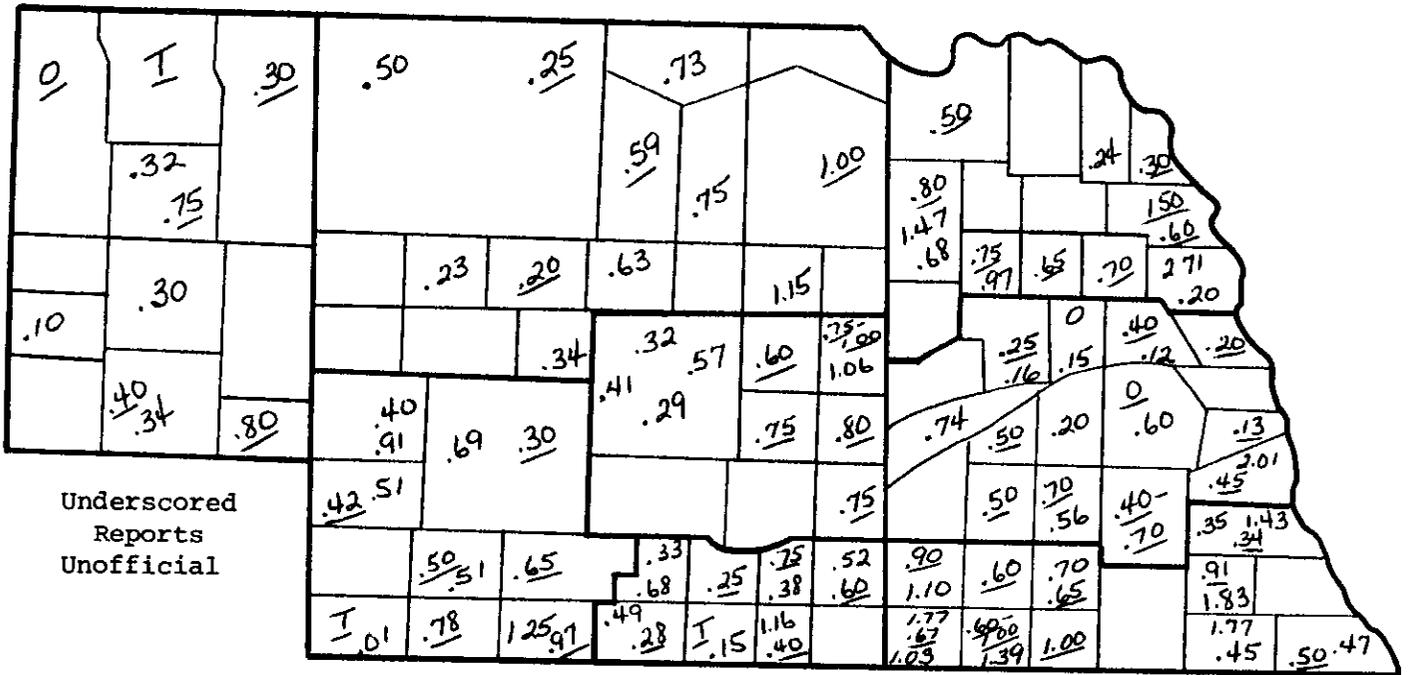
Condition of pasture and range feed supply was unchanged from last week with 73% of counties adequate and 27% short. Range continues to make slow growth due to the lack of moisture in many areas.

Livestock remain in good condition.

Precipitation, April 1 - May 10, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.20	.60	1.00	.80	.70	.50	.50	1.10
Total since April 1.....	1.60	2.80	2.80	2.60	3.10	1.60	3.00	4.30
Normal since April 1....	2.72	3.05	3.33	3.22	3.45	2.85	3.24	3.73

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 12, 1974

Station	Temperature				Precipitation	
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1/</u>	
	Max	Min				
NW	Chadron	81	30	56	--	.25
	Scottsbluff	82	31	58	+4	.12
	Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC	Burwell	--	--	--	--	--
	Valentine	82	34	57	+3	.43
NE	Norfolk	76	42	57	0	1.01
	Sioux City	73	43	57	-1	.96
CEN	Grand Island	81	41	62	+4	1.85
EC	Lincoln	78	40	58	-1	1.26
	Omaha	75	43	56	-4	1.14
SW	Imperial	83	36	61	--	.43
	North Platte	81	28	58	+2	.19

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

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