

Run 2900 7-15-74

Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
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National Weather Service

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
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Release 7/15/74

Week Ending 7/15/74

WEATHER

Temperatures were much above normal the entire period averaging five to eleven degrees above.

Precipitation was quite sparse and was from very widely scattered thunder-showers which occurred the first of the period and again during the mid-portion. Amounts were quite variable from only traces up to a little over two inches.

CROPS

Nebraska farmers and ranchers in most areas of the State had seven days suitable for fieldwork during the survey week (July 6-12). Rains interrupted wheat harvest briefly in some areas of western Nebraska. Topsoil moisture supplies are short in 96% of counties and adequate in 4% and is the worst it has been since the series started in 1969. Subsoil moisture supplies are 87% short and 13% adequate. Only Banner, Cheyenne, and Kimball Counties reported adequate topsoil moisture supplies due to a recent rainfall of .84 to 1.25 inches. All crops are showing signs of severe dryness and drought conditions. Daytime heat is causing crops to curl, fire, discolor and is severely reducing growth of all field and row crops.

Winter wheat crop is 90% harvested for the State, with 80% harvested in the Panhandle. Most southern and south-eastern counties are finished. Normal for July 15 is 62%. Harvest was about eight to ten days earlier than normal. Wheat has been low in moisture with test weight averaging around 59-62 pounds per bushel. Rail cars have been available as needed and custom combines have been in ample supply this year. Some farmers are fertilizing and plowing wheat stubble.

Corn condition is poor in 8% of reporting counties, fair in 41% and good in only 51%. Previous week's corn condition was excellent in 6% of counties, good in 67%, fair in 25% and poor in only 2%. Continued drought conditions are causing severe damage to dryland corn. Ten percent of the corn has silked. Reports indicated dryland corn that is tasseling and silking is very short. Pollination of corn may be hurt severely if relief from extreme hot, dry weather

doesn't come soon. Farmers irrigating are having problems keeping enough water on fields and pumps are running around the clock. Between 45 and 50% of Nebraska corn is irrigated. Corn leaf aphid populations are building. Reports also indicate moderate infestations of stalk borer, rootworm beetle and chinch bugs. Rootworm damage is severe in non-treated fields.

Sorghum condition is good in 42% of counties, fair in 53% and poor in 5%. Previous week's sorghum was excellent in 3% of counties, good in 67%, fair in 29% and poor in only 1%. To date, chinch bug and greenbug populations are expanding due to drought.

Soybean condition is good in 41% of counties, fair in 54% and poor in 5%. Last week counties reported the crop as being excellent in 5%, good in 65%, fair in 30%. Soybeans are very short and are beginning to blossom. Dryland soybeans have stopped growing due to drought.

Oats and other small grain harvest is in progress. Saunders County reports a large crop and harvest being 70% complete. Some of the oat crop is being harvested as haylage.

Sugar beets in the North Platte River Valley are reported in good condition and progressing very well. Field beans are looking good.

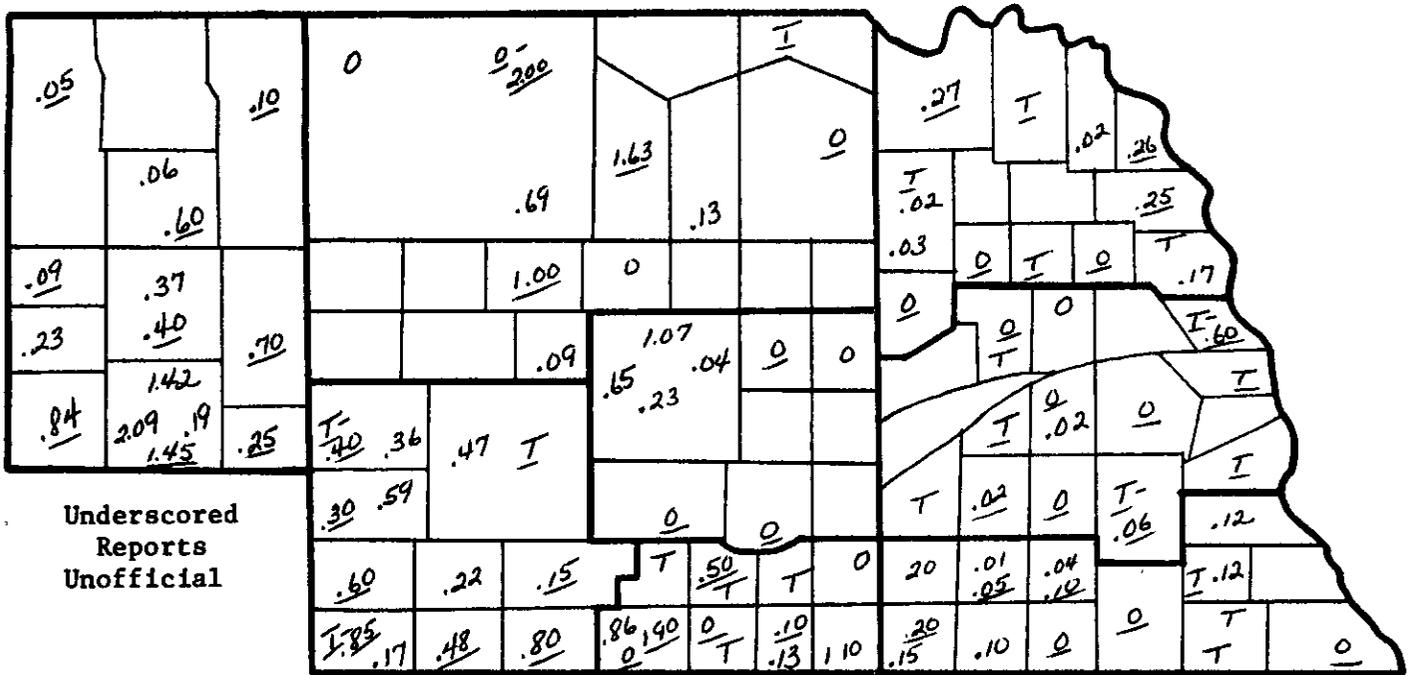
Alfalfa and wild hay condition is declining with prevailing drought conditions. Alfalfa growth has severely declined and stands are reported as being only eight to ten inches high. About 50% of the second cutting has been completed. Wild hay condition is generally fair or poor with only 28% of counties reporting it as good or better.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range supplies are short in 82% of the counties and adequate in 18%. Sandhills and Panhandle range supplies are critically short with native grasses brown and dormant. Range fire hazard is critical.

Livestock are taking the heat well and are in good condition. Livestock movement has been high in cull cows. Cattlemen have started haying cattle due to short pastures. Hot weather has caused substantial fly and pink eye problems. Reported pig and hog losses have been rising due to extreme heat.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, JULY 14, 1974

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1/</u>
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	101	53	80	--	.01
Scottsbluff	98	55	78	+5	.39
Sidney	95	53	--	--	1.89
NC Burwell	102	65	--	--	.20
Valentine	101	65	82	+8	.05
NE Norfolk	103	70	86	+11	T
Sioux City	101	72	85	+10	.14
CEN Grand Island	103	69	86	+10	T
EC Lincoln	103	73	88	+11	.01
Omaha	104	72	86	+9	.43
SW Imperial	97	61	80	--	.70
North Platte	97	60	80	+6	.20

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

Precipitation, April 1 - July 12, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.70	.20	.10	.40	.10	.40	.30	.10
Total since April 1.....	5.10	6.90	10.80	9.50	9.40	8.00	8.50	8.70
Normal since April 1....	8.58	9.91	11.49	10.87	12.05	9.09	10.72	12.95

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