

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS



For Week Ending April 6, 1997

Issue: 05-97

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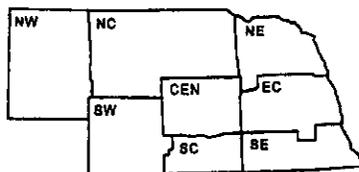
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WEATHER

Temperatures in the Panhandle averaged near normals while the remainder of the State averaged five degrees above normals. Precipitation across the State ranged from seven hundredths of an inch to over two and a half inches.

GENERAL

A late winter storm over the weekend brought blizzard conditions which halted field work over much of the State, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Up to ten inches of snow was recorded in parts of the west and north. The much needed moisture will benefit the western wheat crop and newly seeded oats, but, raised concerns about flooding along the Missouri River considering the heavy snows in the Dakotas this winter. Corn planting had not yet begun in most areas of the State due to cool soil temperatures. Producer activities early in the week included oats seeding, spring tillage, stalk shredding, fertilizer applications, spring equipment preparation, and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition rated 6% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, and 6% excellent. Overall, the crop continued to look good. The weekend moisture should improve crop prospects in the very dry western wheat growing area.

As of Sunday, 36% of the oat crop had been seeded. This compares to 22% last year and 30% for the five-year average. To date, 4% of the crop had emerged, compared to 2% last year.

Sugar beets field preparations continued in the Panhandle. The weekend snow will delay planting start-up.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 36% fair, 57% good, and 2% excellent. Grasses had begun to green-up but were not yet providing sufficient feed. Calving was 76% complete. The late winter storm stressed young calves.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF APRIL 6, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS									STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
	PER CENT												
% Oats Sown	48	13	24	28	45	66	44	53	36	18	22	30	
% Oats Emerged	11	1	0	5	7	25	9	6	4	1	2	n/a	
WINTER REPORTING AS OF APRIL 6, 1997													
% Cows Calved	85	72	62	75	82	86	85	75	76	64	71	n/a	
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF APRIL 4, 1997													
Days Suitable	5.3	3.4	4.7	4.8	4.4	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.3	5.8	4.3		
Topsoil Moisture - Very Short	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	6	18		
- Short	57	18	18	40	21	45	9	13	26	34	57		
- Adequate	37	81	71	57	66	52	85	87	68	55	25		
- Surplus	0	1	11	3	13	0	6	0	5	5	0		
Subsoil Moisture - Very Short	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13		
- Short	23	14	3	22	4	36	21	3	14	14	49		
- Adequate	76	85	97	76	91	64	79	97	85	77	34		
- Surplus	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	9	4		

n/a = not available.

NOTE: National and Nebraska releases are now available on Internet @ <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

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