

Issue NE-CW3203, released August 11, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 10, 2003, higher than normal temperatures further stressed dryland crops and pastures, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Rainfall received in Southwestern counties should benefit wheat seeded this fall but was too late to benefit most spring planted dryland crops. Irrigated crops continued to hold their own during the peak of the growing season. Producer activities included cutting drought damaged dryland corn for silage, monitoring grasshopper populations, and putting up hay.

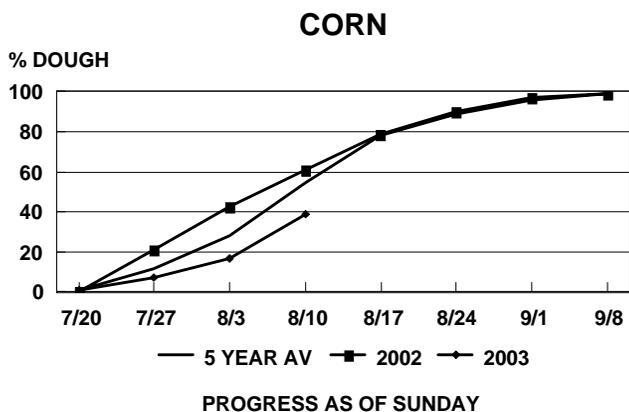
Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below to 6 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was scattered across the state with amounts mostly less than 0.60 of an inch except for the southwest which had reports over 3 inches.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending August 10, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	39	34	68	28
Short	34	38	23	27
Adequate	27	28	7	44
Surplus	0	0	2	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	40	32	74	30
Short	37	40	19	27
Adequate	23	28	7	42
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.6	6.5	6.3	5.9

Field Crops Report: Corn condition continued to decline and rated 9 percent very poor, 12 poor, 25 fair, 37 good, and 17 excellent, above last year but slightly below average. Irrigated fields rated 76 percent good and excellent while dryland fields declined to 23. Thirty-nine percent had reached the dough stage, behind last year at 61 and average at 55. Fields had reached the dent stage on 4 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 17 and average at 13.

Soybean condition declined and rated 9 percent very poor, 17 poor, 33 fair, 32 good, and 9 excellent, above last year and near average. Fields were setting pods on 69 percent of the acreage, behind 76 last year and 70 average.



Oat harvest for grain was nearing completion with 94 percent combined. Last year, harvest was complete at this time while average is 95.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 13 percent very poor, 26 poor, 42 fair, 18 good, and 1 excellent, above last year but below average. Sixty-three percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year at 68 and average at 71. Fields had turned color on 2 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 10 and average at 7.

Dry bean condition rated 3 percent very poor, 6 poor, 21 fair, 51 good, and 19 excellent. Ninety-one percent of the fields were blooming, near last year at 93 and average at 94. Sixty-one percent had set pods, behind last year at 66 but ahead of average at 58. Fields were beginning to show color in the southwest.

Alfalfa condition declined and rated 9 percent very poor, 21 poor, 31 fair, 33 good, and 6 excellent, above last year but below average. Third cutting activities were 50 percent harvested, behind last year at 59 but ahead of average at 39. Reports indicated a short or no third cutting for some producers.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 10, 2003

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Silked	96	93	98	98
Corn Dough	39	17	61	55
Corn Dent	4	0	17	13
Soybeans Blooming	94	90	98	97
Soybeans Setting Pods	69	37	76	70
Oats Harvested	94	90	100	95
Sorghum Headed	63	30	68	71
Sorghum Coloring	2	0	10	7
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	50	26	59	39

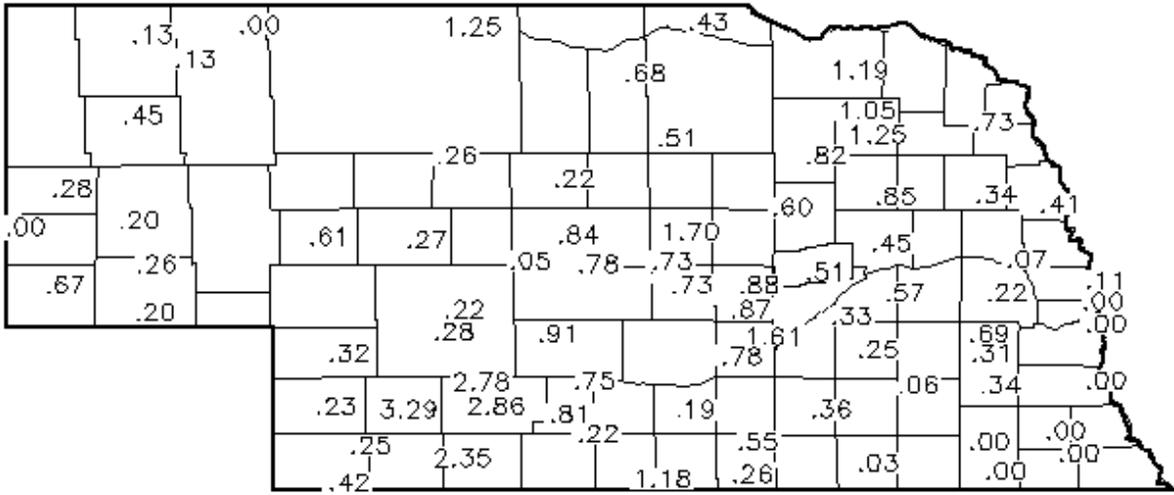
**Crop Condition: Nebraska,
Week Ending August 10, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	9	12	25	37	17
Soybean	9	17	33	32	9
Sorghum	13	26	42	18	1
Dry Bean	3	6	21	51	19
Alfalfa	9	21	31	33	6

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 19 percent very poor, 29 poor, 29 fair, 22 good, and 1 excellent, above last year but below average. In many areas, pastures are not providing good grazing potential and some producers were selling cattle to conserve pastures or provide supplemental feed.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 10, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 10, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.24	.65	.79	.92	.30	1.47	.45	.07
Total since April 1	9.90	13.07	15.22	14.71	14.05	13.19	13.25	15.30
Normal since April 1	10.69	12.98	14.76	14.03	15.43	12.52	13.83	15.91
Total as % of normal	92%	101%	103%	105%	91%	104%	96%	96%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, August 10, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	96	58	77	+5	165	1679	1775
	Scottsbluff	98	59	78	+6	170	1878	1772
	Sidney	95	58	77	+4	163	1744	1817
NC	Ainsworth	94	59	76	+2	168	1814	1952
	Arthur	95	60	77	+4	169	1742	1911
	O'Neill	94	61	76	+1	169	1803	2038
NE	Concord	87	59	73	-2	158	1820	2086
	Elgin	91	60	75	0	169	1851	2086
	West Point	90	58	74	-2	165	1925	2200
C	Grand Island	92	60	75	0	168	1956	2110
	Lexington	97	64	78	+3	184	2045	2075
	Ord	92	60	76	+1	173	1891	2095
EC	Lincoln	91	62	76	-1	176	2122	2307
	Central City	91	59	75	0	168	1969	2142
	Mead	91	57	74	-2	162	1986	2275
SW	Champion	98	59	79	+5	168	1884	1954
	North Platte	98	60	78	+4	174	1916	1974
	Curtis	97	61	79	+5	177	2025	2005
SC	Arapahoe	95	58	77	+3	169	1720	1904
	Minden	92	62	76	+2	176	2020	2082
	Red Cloud	94	64	78	+3	177	2068	2134
SE	Beatrice	93	59	76	-2	168	2080	2307
	Clay Center	89	62	74	-1	166	1956	2129
	Nemaha	92	63	77	0	179	2211	2324

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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