

Issue NE-CW3603, released September 8, 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 September 7, 2003, limited rainfall and above average temperatures continued to stress dryland crops but encouraged fall wheat seeding activities, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Irrigation was coming to a close for corn and soybeans. Seed corn harvest had started with high moisture grain harvest to begin soon.

Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below normals to 6 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was limited to the west with amounts received mostly less than 0.25 inch.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 7, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	57	59	47	29
Short	30	31	33	34
Adequate	13	10	20	36
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	54	55	64	34
Short	34	38	27	29
Adequate	12	7	9	36
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.3

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 16 percent very poor, 15 poor, 23 fair, 30 good, and 16 excellent, above last year but below average. Irrigated fields rated 73 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 10. This compares to 53 and 5, respectively, a year ago. Seventy-eight percent of the fields had reached the dent stage, behind last year at 87 and average at 88. Fourteen percent of the acreage was mature, lagging last year at 29 and average at 23.

Soybean condition declined and rated 21 percent very poor, 25 poor, 28 fair, 20 good, and 6 excellent, above last year but below average. Thirty-nine percent of the acreage had turned color, behind last year at 57 and average at 49. Ten percent of the crop had dropped leaves, less than 17 a year ago and 15 average.

Sorghum condition rated 18 percent very poor, 28 poor, 39 fair, 15 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Ninety-four percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year at 97 and average at 99. Heads had turned

turned color on 52 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 67 and average at 71. The crop was mature on 2 percent of the acreage, behind 11 last year and 13 average.

Dry bean condition rated 4 percent very poor, 11 poor, 30 fair, 46 good, and 9 excellent. Seventy-one percent of the acreage had turned color, ahead of last year at 56 but behind average at 77. Thirty percent had dropped leaves, same as last year but behind average at 48. Harvest had progressed to 7 percent complete, behind 10 last year and 17 average.

Wheat planting progressed to 12 percent sown, ahead of last year at 10 and average at 9.

Proso millet harvest advanced to 29 percent complete, ahead of 20 last year.

Alfalfa condition declined and rated 24 percent very poor, 21 poor, 31 fair, 21 good, and 3 excellent, above last year but below average. Third cutting activities were 94 percent harvested, ahead of last year at 91 and average at 93. Fourth cutting activities continued where growth permitted with 13 percent harvested, behind 21 last year and 15 average.

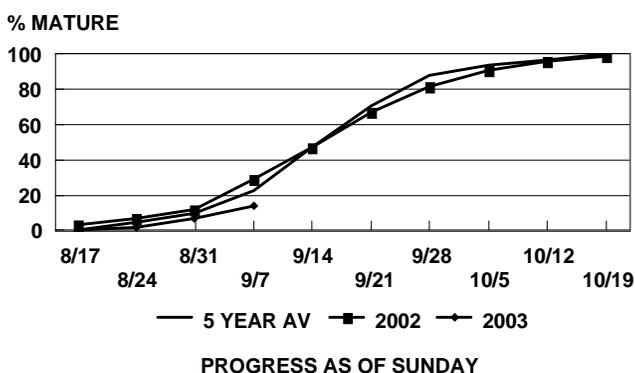
**Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending
September 7, 2003**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Dent	78	62	87	88
Corn Mature	14	7	29	23
Soybeans Turning Color	39	14	57	49
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	10	4	17	15
Sorghum Headed	94	90	97	99
Sorghum Coloring	52	34	67	71
Sorghum Mature	2	1	11	13
Wheat Planted	12	2	10	9
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	94	87	91	93
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	13	5	21	15

**Crop Condition: Nebraska,
Week Ending September 7, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	16	15	23	30	16
Soybean	21	25	28	20	6
Sorghum	18	28	39	15	0
Dry Bean	4	11	30	46	9
Alfalfa	24	21	31	21	3

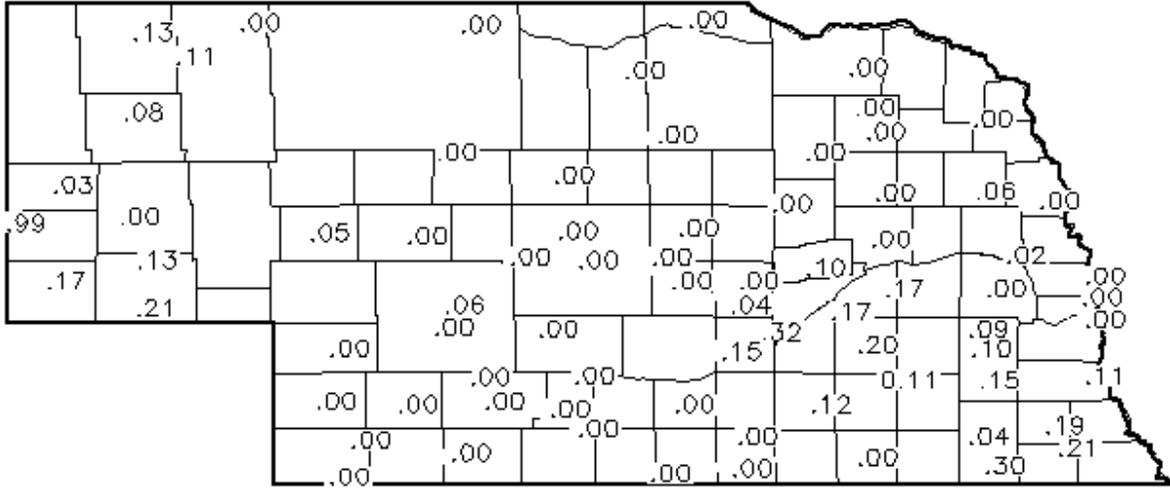
CORN



Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 33 percent very poor, 31 poor, 30 fair, 6 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. In many areas, producers continued to provide supplemental feed. Feedlots were dusty, causing some respiratory problems in cattle.

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 September 7, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 7, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.24	.00	.00	.06	.09	.00	.00	.13
Total since April 1	10.89	13.21	16.10	14.70	15.34	14.17	14.06	18.32
Normal since April 1	12.07	15.07	17.33	16.48	18.55	14.38	16.45	19.34
Total as % of normal	90%	87%	92%	89%	82%	98%	85%	95%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, September 7, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	91	47	67	+3	119	2215	2284
	Scottsbluff	89	46	67	+3	120	2429	2280
	Sidney	90	49	68	+4	125	2297	2338
NC	Ainsworth	94	51	72	+6	147	2430	2512
	Arthur	92	47	69	+3	128	2303	2465
	O'Neill	96	47	71	+5	140	2415	2616
NE	Concord	90	46	68	+2	126	2427	2666
	Elgin	91	48	70	+3	134	2465	2674
	West Point	91	45	68	0	122	2540	2819
C	Grand Island	89	48	68	+1	127	2578	2707
	Lexington	91	52	72	+5	147	2702	2663
	Ord	92	45	70	+2	131	2496	2687
EC	Lincoln	88	49	70	0	136	2799	2965
	Central City	88	45	68	0	127	2586	2747
	Mead	90	43	68	-2	125	2607	2920
SW	Champion	92	49	69	+3	127	2437	2519
	North Platte	92	45	69	+3	131	2500	2544
	Curtis	92	47	70	+4	135	2649	2582
SC	Arapahoe	92	47	69	+3	128	2258	2457
	Minden	89	50	69	+2	133	2639	2672
	Red Cloud	88	50	69	+2	133	2717	2739
SE	Beatrice	88	48	68	-2	127	2711	2965
	Clay Center	87	46	67	-1	120	2555	2732
	Nemaha	89	52	70	0	139	2895	2976

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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