

Issue NE-CW1904, released May 10, 2004, 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 May 9, 2004, corn and soybean planting made excellent progress with both ahead of last year and average, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This progress was made possible by limited precipitation and above normal temperatures. As a result, many pivots were being run to germinate seed. Other producer activities included sorghum planting and other fieldwork.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from 5 to 13 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was very light over the western half of the state while over 1 inch was received in isolated areas of the south central and northeast.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending May 9, 2004**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	17	9	1	8
Short	41	34	5	15
Adequate	41	57	79	64
Surplus	1	0	5	13
Subsoil				
Very Short	39	34	12	15
Short	40	41	36	26
Adequate	21	27	50	55
Surplus	0	0	2	4
Days Suitable	6.5	5.6	1.9	3.6

Field Crops Report: Corn planting jumped to 85 percent complete, about 2 weeks ahead of 42 last year and 10 days ahead of 56 average. Twenty-nine percent of the crop was emerged, ahead of last year at 11 and average at 17.

Soybean planting progressed to 25 percent complete, 10 days ahead of last year at 5 and a week ahead of average at 14.

Sorghum planting advanced to 7 percent complete, ahead of 2 last year and 4 average.

Wheat condition rated 11 percent very poor, 18 poor, 36 fair, 32 good, and 3 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 82 percent jointed, about a week ahead of last year at 68 and average at 58. Wheat was

heading out in the southern and east central districts and reached 3 percent headed, ahead of last year at 1 and average at 2.

Oat planting was virtually complete with 82 percent emerged. Emergence was slightly behind last year and average at 83.

Sugar beet planting was virtually complete. A year ago 88 percent had been planted.

Alfalfa conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 11 poor, 34 fair, 43 good, and 8 excellent. First cutting activities were underway with 2 percent harvested to date.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending May 9, 2004

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 1 st Cutting	2	0	0	0
Corn Planted	85	52	42	56
Corn Emerged	29	7	11	17
Oats Planted	99	96	95	96
Oats Emerged	82	67	83	83
Soybeans Planted	25	5	5	14
Sorghum Planted	7	2	2	4
Wheat Jointed	82	54	68	58
Wheat Headed	3	0	1	2

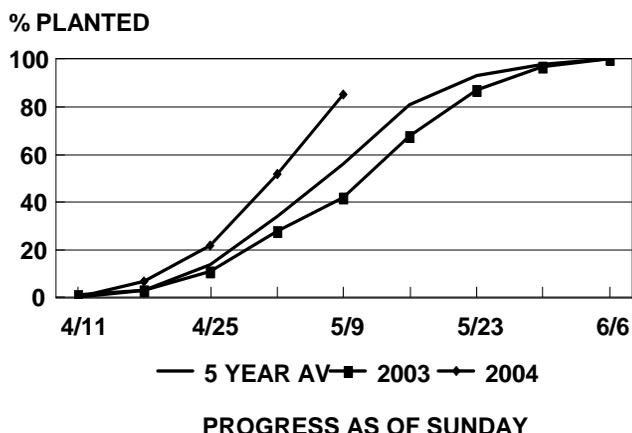
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 9, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	4	11	34	43	8
Wheat	11	18	36	32	3

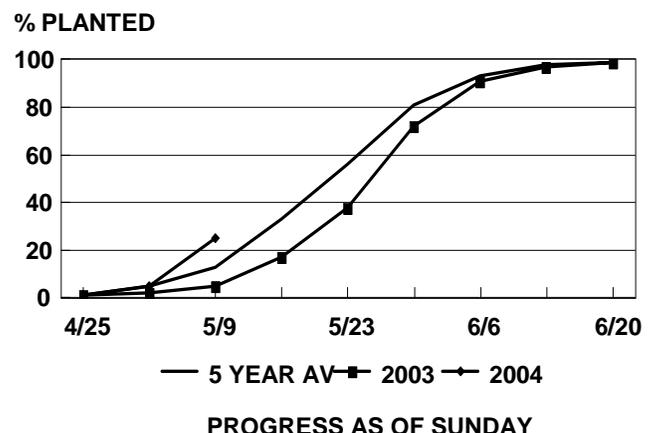
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 13 percent very poor, 24 poor, 37 fair, 24 good and 2 excellent, below a year ago and average. Producers continued to turn cattle onto pastures.

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

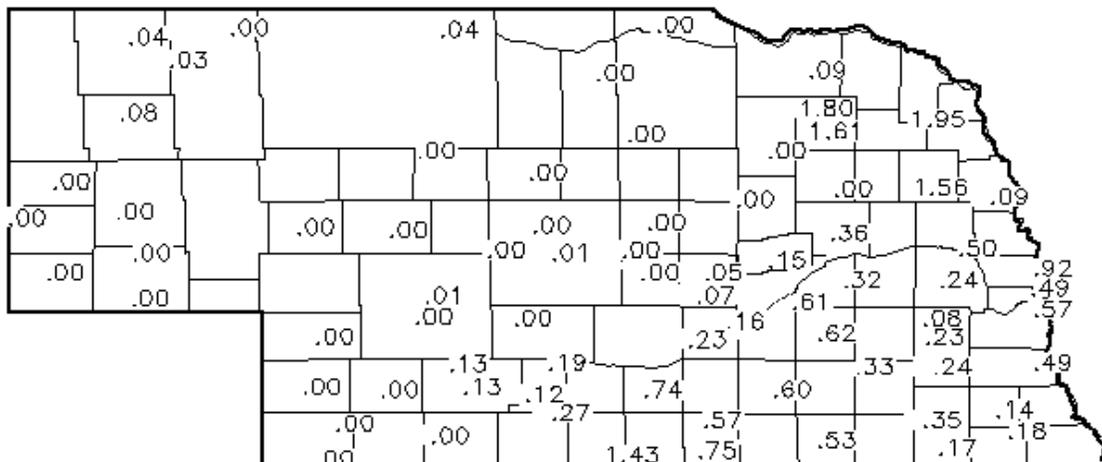
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 9, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 9, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.01	.01	.60	.06	.43	.04	.55	.44
Total since April 1	1.46	1.49	2.95	2.00	1.76	2.16	2.39	1.90
Normal since April 1	2.62	3.02	3.59	3.42	3.84	2.80	3.15	3.91
Total as % of normal	55%	49%	82%	59%	46%	77%	77%	48%

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

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 9, 2004

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	93	34	63	10
	Scottsbluff	93	38	66	13
	Sidney	91	35	63	10
NC	Ainsworth	95	35	65	9
	Arthur	93	36	66	11
	O'Neill	97	31	64	7
NE	Concord	90	27	63	5
	Elgin	94	29	65	7
	West Point	92	29	64	5
C	Grand Island	95	34	69	11
	Lexington	95	37	69	11
	Ord	94	31	66	8
EC	Lincoln	91	29	69	9
	Central City	95	30	69	10
	Mead	92	26	68	8
SW	Champion	97	35	66	10
	North Platte	97	37	67	11
	Curtis	95	30	67	11
SC	Arapahoe	94	34	66	11
	Minden	96	31	69	11
	Red Cloud	92	31	68	10
SE	Beatrice	94	28	68	8
	Clay Center	91	26	67	8
	Nemaha	95	33	70	8

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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