

Issue NE-CW3404, released August 23, 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](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov). Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending August 22, 2004, below normal temperatures and limited precipitation continued to impact the progress and condition of dryland crops, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Dryland corn, soybean and sorghum conditions moved lower as crops waited yet another week for rainfall. Producer activities included scouting fields for insects, spraying for soybean aphids, and preparing for fall wheat seeding.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures for the week averaged 5 degrees below normals. Precipitation was light with amounts less than .50 inch for most reporting points in the western two-thirds of the state and less than .15 inch in the eastern third of Nebraska.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending August 22, 2004**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	25	20	57	37
Short	39	43	36	31
Adequate	36	36	7	31
Surplus	0	1	0	1
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	36	36	58	43
Short	34	36	33	30
Adequate	30	28	9	27
Surplus	0	0	0	0
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.0

**Field Crops Report:** Corn condition rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 17 fair, 47 good, and 31 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 83 percent good and excellent while dryland fields moved lower to 68. This compares to 71 and 14, respectively, a year ago. Eighty-three percent of the acreage had reached the dough stage, same as last year but behind average at 86. Thirty-one percent had dented, behind 35 last year and average at 43. A few fields in south central Nebraska were considered mature.

Soybeans condition declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 9 poor, 23 fair, 46 good, and 21 excellent, still well above last year and average. Ninety-five percent had set pods, ahead of last year at 92 and average at 94. Four percent of the acreage was turning color, behind 6 last year and 10 average. Soybean aphids continued to be found at levels that warranted spraying for control.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 9 poor, 38 fair, 40 good, and 12 excellent, still well above last year and average. Ninety percent had headed, ahead of last year at 79 and average at 88. Fields were showing color on 15 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 20 and average at 24.

Oat harvest was virtually complete with only a few fields remaining in the Panhandle.

Dry bean conditions improved and rated 2 percent very poor, 9 poor, 26 fair, 48 good, and 15 excellent. Ninety percent of the acreage had bloomed, behind last year at 98 and average at 99. Sixty-eight percent had set pods, well behind last year at 88 and average at 92.

Proso millet harvest had yet to get underway in most western counties, behind 16 percent last year and 5 average.

Alfalfa conditions rated 9 percent very poor, 16 poor, 26 fair, 38 good, and 11 excellent, above last year and average. Third cutting activities progressed to 75 percent complete, ahead of last year at 70 and average at 71. Wild hay condition rated 10 percent very poor, 16 poor, 29 fair, 37 good, and 8 excellent.

**Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 22, 2004**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	75	59	70	71
Corn Dough	83	71	83	86
Corn Dent	31	12	35	43
Corn Mature	0	0	1	4
Oats Harvested	98	95	98	99
Sorghum Headed	90	75	79	88
Sorghum Turning Color	15	8	20	24
Soybeans Setting Pods	95	87	92	94
Soybeans Turning Color	4	0	6	10

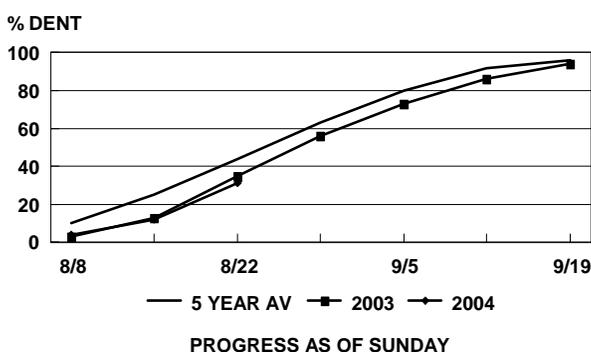
**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 22, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	9	16	26	38	11
Corn	1	4	17	47	31
Sorghum	1	9	38	40	12
Soybeans	1	9	23	46	21

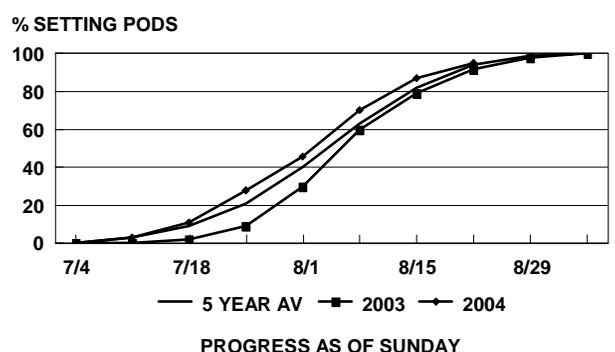
**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition rated 13 percent very poor, 22 poor, 32 fair, 30 good, and 3 excellent, but remained above a year ago and average.

*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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm). For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm>.*

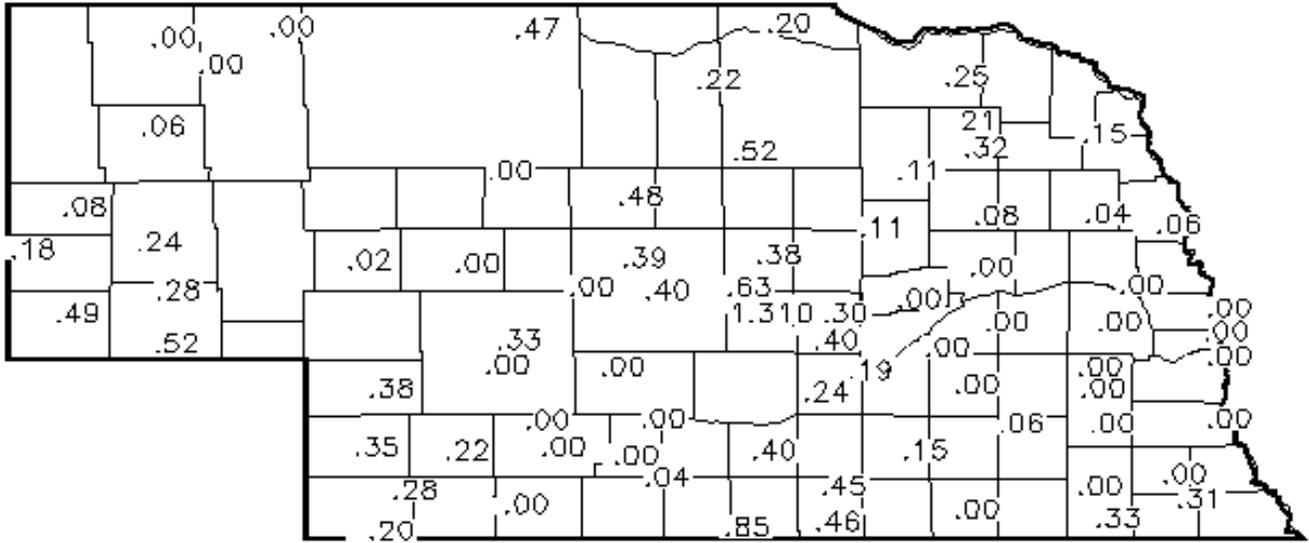
**CORN**



**SOYBEANS**



**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 22, 2004**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 22, 2004**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.17	.32	.16	.33	.00	.19	.28	.16
Total since April 1	9.62	13.11	15.58	13.33	13.81	15.06	13.58	15.24
Normal since April 1	11.31	13.90	15.87	15.11	16.75	13.38	15.00	17.36
Total as % of normal	84%	94%	98%	88%	82%	112%	91%	88%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, August 22, 2004**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	91	40	64	-6	102	1737	2054
	Scottsbluff	89	41	65	-5	110	1892	2050
	Sidney	91	45	65	-5	108	1798	2117
NC	Ainsworth	86	41	66	-6	117	1928	2333
	Arthur	93	41	65	-6	111	1801	2251
	O'Neill	90	39	67	-6	122	1945	2403
NE	Concord	87	41	65	-8	113	1950	2466
	Elgin	92	43	68	-5	124	1981	2423
	West Point	99	44	67	-7	119	2091	2557
C	Grand Island	90	46	69	-3	134	2175	2403
	Lexington	90	46	70	-2	135	2248	2352
	Ord	93	41	68	-4	127	2077	2382
EC	Lincoln	91	50	71	-4	143	2403	2631
	Central City	89	42	67	-6	123	2176	2441
	Mead	91	44	68	-6	129	2242	2613
SW	Champion	95	45	67	-5	115	2012	2275
	North Platte	94	40	67	-5	120	2067	2308
	Curtis	92	47	69	-3	129	2158	2313
SC	Arapahoe	93	40	64	-7	113	1815	2247
	Minden	89	48	69	-3	135	2217	2377
	Red Cloud	94	50	72	-1	142	2344	2427
SE	Beatrice	92	48	70	-5	137	2369	2631
	Clay Center	88	48	68	-4	129	2175	2424
	Nemaha	95	52	70	-4	136	2447	2638

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
 Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service  
 P. O. Box 81069  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1069  
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA PERMIT NO. G-38