



Crops

2001 Nebraska Summary

Year 2001 was a welcome improvement over the drought-damaged season of 2000. Nebraska dryland producers saw increased yields over 2000 as precipitation levels across the State averaged near normals or above. This was especially true in the eastern third of the State which experienced rainfall accumulations well above normals during the growing season. Row crop yields were in many cases 15-20 percent above a year earlier, with the statewide average corn yield setting a new record high. Irrigators were especially pleased as record high yields for irrigated corn were set in 60 of Nebraska's 93 counties.

The growing season was marked with very little storm damage to crops and limited disease and insect pressure. Southwestern counties experienced normal precipitation, but this did little to recharge water contents of depleted southwestern reservoirs. Statewide, 11 counties qualified during 2001 for the Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation; this compared to 83 counties a year earlier. As a result, dryland yields were well above year ago levels with 10 counties setting record high dryland corn yields. This was in part the result of temperatures which never hit the prolonged extremes that are often common in peak summer months. Days above 95 degrees were near the 20-year norm in all three of the eastern districts, while near 20-year

highs in the western portions of Nebraska. Temperatures were normal or below during the critical corn pollination period, limiting the stress. Harvest of fall crops began early due to the early planting date, low humidity associated with the drought conditions and late summer temperatures which were well above normal. In many cases, grain was harvested below standard moisture because producers were not able to get the crop out of the field in time. This saved drying costs but resulted in yield loss at the elevator.

By crop, corn acreage declined for the fourth straight year while soybeans continued the record-breaking streak of acreage increases. Sharp increases in soybean acreage were noted in central, southwestern and south central counties with corresponding declines noted in corn, sorghum and wheat for most of these same areas. Sorghum acreage resumed its decline being down eight of the last nine years. Wheat, unchanged from 2000, paused in the decline begun in 1996. Statewide, wheat yields averaged one bushel above a year earlier. Hay yields showed marked improvements over the dry conditions of 2000. Hay stock levels improved, driving hay prices down from the high levels of a year ago.

**Crops: Indexes, 1977=100
Nebraska, Selected Years, 1960-2001 ¹**

Year	Feed Grains	Food Grains	Hay	Oil Crops	Miscellaneous ¹	All Crops	Feed Grains	Food Grains	Hay	Oil Crops	Miscellaneous ¹	All Crops
<i>Index of Crop Yield per Harvested Acre</i>							<i>Index of Crop Production</i>					
1960	85	81	70	78	90	63	55	84	89	11	81	58
1965	71	57	78	65	83	71	46	54	94	40	68	52
1970	76	109	76	61	96	78	56	92	81	44	90	62
1975	84	91	85	75	97	85	76	95	86	80	115	81
1980	85	108	99	83	109	90	90	105	94	131	138	98
1985	126	111	106	100	118	120	138	87	90	209	127	135
1990	125	109	102	96	117	118	130	83	96	200	196	131
1995	106	117	119	92	101	107	113	83	96	248	156	123
1997	130	106	110	113	114	123	149	68	90	353	174	156
1998	143	131	124	122	117	137	161	80	102	406	172	172
1999	137	137	125	118	118	134	149	79	102	444	189	168
2000	121	103	103	106	123	116	131	58	80	427	169	149
2001	142	106	121	126	124	134	146	57	101	548	151	173

¹ Miscellaneous crops include potatoes, sugarbeets, dry beans, popcorn (discontinued in 1982), millet (beginning in 1968; discontinued in 1985), alfalfa seed (discontinued in 1982), and red clover seed (discontinued in 1981).