

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 5-3-55 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 5-2-55

WEATHER Temperatures were unseasonably high in the east to considerably above normal in the west. Freezing temperatures were limited to the extreme west. The close of the week was unseasonably warm over the central and northeastern portions of the State, when temperatures reached midsummer normals. Local showers or thundershowers, which ranged upward to moderate to heavy, occurred Wednesday evening over the eastern portion of the State, but there was no precipitation of consequence in the central and west. Sunshine was abundant. Strong drying winds blew on several days, which raised considerable dust in the west and central.

CROPS The condition of wheat is about the same as a week ago. There has been some improvement in areas receiving substantial rains a week ago Saturday which offset the lower condition in the dry area in the central portion of the state. Wheat in the southwest and panhandle areas has a better outlook at present than the wheat in central Nebraska.

Wheat has made good growth throughout the state except for local areas, the largest being the southern half of Kimball county. Lack of moisture, especially in the central portion of the state, together with high winds is beginning to cause some deterioration.

Moisture is needed badly in the central area, both north and south of the Platte River. Unless rain is received soon, rapid deterioration may be expected. High winds are causing rapid evaporation and making a dry situation worse. Rainfall has been spotted and a good general rain is needed throughout the state.

Oats in eastern Nebraska have made splendid progress except for some dry spots in northeastern areas. Oats are needing rain badly in the central and western portions of the state where high winds have dried the surface soil. Planting in the western portion of the state is nearing completion with insufficient moisture for proper sprouting of the seed. Both oats and barley showed a little deterioration during the past week.

A few counties report some planting of corn. The work of preparing the ground for corn is well advanced and additional planting is expected this week which is a little earlier than usual. In some of the drier areas, comments indicate that farmers may shift to more sorghum unless the needed moisture arrives.

Most of the alfalfa has made good progress in the eastern third of the state, but lack of moisture has slowed growth in central and western portions. Pastures are generally good throughout the east but slow in the western half of the state. Most of the sand hill area needs moisture to start the grass.

The soil moisture situation is about the same as reported last week with about 75% of the counties reporting a shortage of surface moisture and 85% reporting a shortage of subsoil moisture. The dry autumn and lack of substantial spring rains is responsible for this dry condition. High winds have aggravated the situation. The rain that occurred April 23 was substantial in only 16 out of the 93 counties. April showers have been too local. A good general rain covering the entire state is needed badly.

LIVESTOCK The preliminary report on shipments of stocker and feeder cattle to Nebraska country points is somewhat larger than April a year ago. Calving is well advanced. Some of the range counties report a good demand for pasture. Hay and feed are a little short in some counties of western Nebraska. Some cattle are out on the range, but the supply of grass is insufficient.

1580
5-3-55

