

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 5-22-56

Week Ending 5-19-56

WEATHER The week opened cool, but temperatures were considerably above normal during the last five days. Afternoon highs reached the lower 90s over the southern portion of the State Friday afternoon. There was abundant sunshine, wind movement was rather low, and humidity was very low during the latter part of the week. There was no precipitation of consequence.

CROPS About 49% of the corn was planted by last week-end, or the same percentage as was planted by May 19 a year ago. This is approximately 20% below the average of this date for the three years 1952, 1953 and 1954. Only in northeastern Nebraska is planting up to normal for this date.

Percentages of the crop planted up to last week-end of leading corn districts are as follows: Northeast, 64%; Central, 52%; East-central, 40%; Southwest, 40%; South-central, 49%; and Southeast, 43%. Dry weather in central and southern Nebraska is largely responsible for the delayed planting. There may be a shift to more drouth-resistant crops, unless badly needed rain arrives. Normally, the bulk of the corn is planted during the second and third weeks of May and generally finished by June 1, but when the season is late some corn is planted later.

The condition of winter wheat dropped considerably last week. The deterioration was greatest in central and southern Nebraska. In some counties, wheat started to turn yellow, due largely to the lack of sufficient moisture. Subsoil moisture tests made during the latter part of April showed moisture at about the same depth as a year ago, but the degree of saturation was much less. Warm weather, with some wind caused a heavy demand for moisture and removed much of the available moisture last week.

Some of the wheat is heading and needs moisture badly. The crop held up well previous to the past week since the weather had been cool and plants had not reached their usual stage of growth. Wheat in the Panhandle showed a slight reduction in condition. Most of that wheat is grown on summer fallow land. Some of the summer fallow fields in southwestern Nebraska are short of moisture. A year ago the condition of wheat for the middle of May was very poor in southern Nebraska; however, rains falling the last half of May and throughout June, with temperatures low enough to be favorable, resulted in a record average yield. So far the situation is not nearly as favorable this year.

1300 - 5/22/56
The condition of both oats and barley dropped last week due to insufficient moisture. Some oats and barley are being pastured. The outlook is more favorable in northeastern Nebraska, where rains were received a week or so ago. Heavy rains in a few eastern counties along the Platte River last week were of benefit, but considerable damage was done by hail and erosion. Outside of this area, in some counties in the Panhandle there was little or no precipitation last week.

Alfalfa is short in central and southern Nebraska. The condition is better in the Panhandle and northeastern Nebraska. Elsewhere, except where local rains were received, it appears the crop will be short.

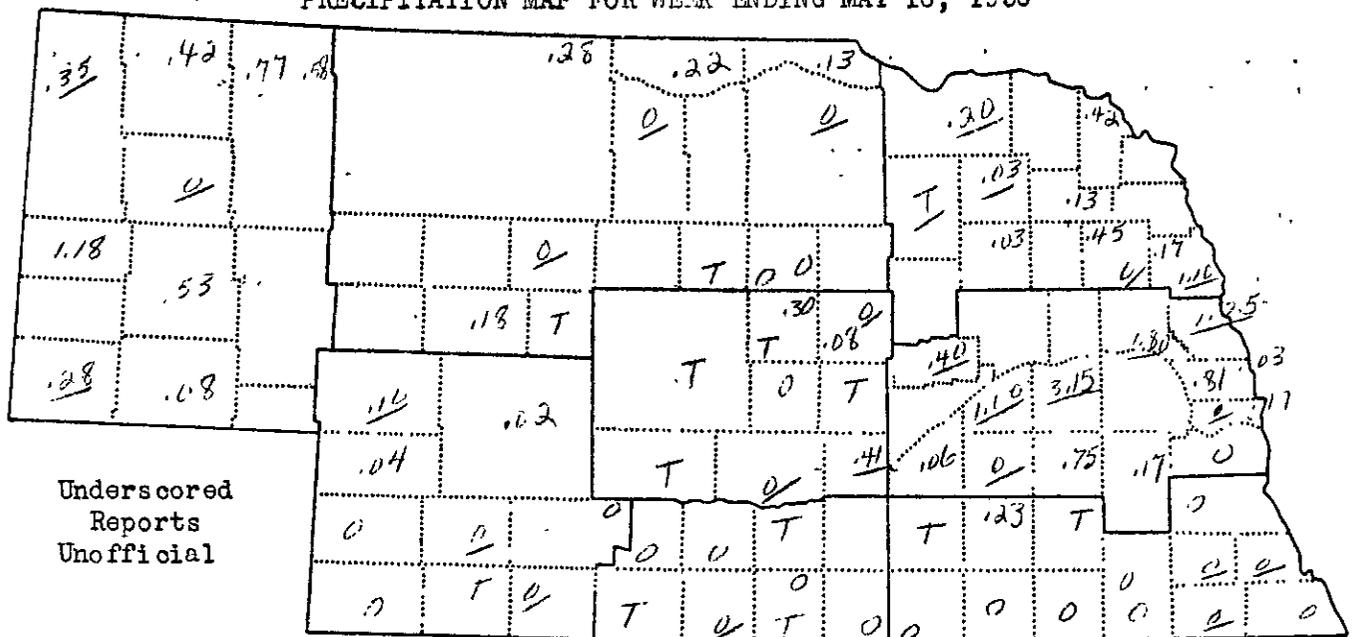
Wild hay and pasture needs moisture badly. Pasture is very short throughout most of central and southern Nebraska. Lack of pasture and shortage of feed is presenting a rather serious feed problem.

Sugar beets are coming up nicely in western Nebraska. Planting was a little early this year and the moisture situation is more favorable. Soil moisture conditions are also favorable for the planting of beans and potatoes.

About 73% of the counties are reporting a shortage of surface moisture, as compared with 53% reported a week ago. Only 27% of the counties have ample surface moisture, against 47% a week ago. Practically all counties in the state are reporting a lack of subsoil moisture, except a few counties in the Panhandle. The continued drouth, especially in southern Nebraska, following the shortage of moisture for the past three years, is presenting a rather serious situation.

LIVESTOCK Some counties reported sales of livestock due to lack of pasture and feed. Several others reported sales of cattle may be quite heavy unless moisture is received soon to stimulate the growth of grass. There was very little pasture last fall and the feeding season has been long. As a result, some of the southern counties are short of feed for cattle. The outlook is more favorable in the northern half of the state, but more moisture is also needed there for continued growth of grass, and especially wild hay. Conditions have been very favorable for calving.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 18, 1956



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		May 15th		16th		17th		18th		19th		20th		21st	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	62	45	66	40	77	--	83	45	81	60	84	55	83	49
	Scottsbluff	60	39	66	40	78	43	83	47	84	55	85	57	83	52
	Sidney	59	35	65	38	77	39	83	41	86	53	84	49	84	52
NC	Burwell	--	--	--	--	84	46	84	46	91	48	75	57	87	60
	Valentine	66	43	64	42	79	46	81	51	84	47	77	--	84	52
NE	Norfolk	65	50	62	46	85	52	78	53	88	52	73	57	85	60
	Sioux City	71	50	65	40	84	51	78	51	90	49	72	57	89	60
CEN	Grand Island	66	44	64	48	84	50	83	54	88	54	76	60	82	64
EC	Lincoln	69	55	66	47	86	58	82	55	90	55	78	61	85	65
	Omaha	66	53	64	44	84	52	79	54	92	53	74	57	84	63
SW	Imperial	63	40	68	41	82	42	87	49	91	54	86	53	88	57
	North Platte	66	34	65	35	80	39	84	51	89	54	79	55	83	62

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 1956

<u>Eastern Division</u>		<u>Central Division</u>		<u>Western Division</u>	
Grand Island	0	Burwell	0	Chadron	.01
Lincoln	0	North Platte	0	Imperial	.03
Norfolk	.11	Valentine	.02	Scottsbluff	0
Omaha	.03			Sidney	.04
Sioux City	.05				

Precipitation, April 1 - May 18, 1956

	<u>Eastern Div.</u>	<u>Central Div.</u>	<u>Western Div.</u>
Total Past Week	.16	.05	.33
Total Since April 1	2.53	1.80	1.53
Long-Time Average Since April 1	4.71	4.12	3.53

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