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NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Release 7/27/64

Week Ending 7/27/64

WEATHER Another hot, dry week. Temperatures averaged 5 to 6 degrees above normal in the northwest and north central, and 3 to 4 degrees above elsewhere. Temperatures exceeding 100 degrees were common across the State Monday through Thursday. Top readings included 108° at Beatrice, Springview, and Hay Springs, and 109° at Spencer and Valentine. Four consecutive days of temperatures above 100° were reported at some stations before a brief surge of cool air returned readings to the 90s (80s in Panhandle and north central) on Friday and the 80s on Saturday. Friday was the fifth day of 100 plus temperatures before the cooler air reached the southern border in central Nebraska. A warming trend set in Sunday and returned readings to above normal again across the State as the week ended.

Showers were very sparse and most places were missed entirely. However, Sunday evening brought generous amounts to some southern localities, including Hastings .60, Geneva 1.25, Beatrice 1.95 and Rosemont 2.88. Heavy thundershowers and some hail were reported from the northeastern portion of the Panhandle the same evening.

CROPS High temperatures and dry weather caused further deterioration of dryland crops. Irrigation water demands were heavy as high evaporation and rapid plant transpiration rates made difficult the task of maintaining the growing crop condition. Wilting and some firing of plants were taking place in dry areas. Rainfall is seriously needed in much of the State as most row crops are going through the fertilization period--a stage when the moisture requirements are high to insure proper pollination.

About 50 percent of the corn is now tasseled. Normally tasseling has progressed to the one quarter mark by this date. By areas, tasseling is about 60 percent completed in the east and southeast and has a mere start in the west. Corn rootworm beetles are becoming a problem in some fields and a few heavy infestations of the corn borer have been observed. Grain sorghums headed rapidly during the warm weather and now approximately 20 percent of the crop is headed. The late planted fields of soybeans are receiving their final cultivation. Early planted soybean fields are blooming and setting pods.

Wheat harvest is in the wind-up stage in the northwest counties and is generally finished elsewhere. Yields were usually good in the Panhandle with some being slightly higher than anticipated. The harvest of oats continued to make good progress with cutting now being about 85 percent completed.

Sugar beets and dry beans are making good growth but water demands are heavy. Lower temperatures are needed for dry beans if a good set of pods is to be realized.

The second cutting of alfalfa is 90 percent harvested and cutting of the third crop has started. However, the hot, dry weather has slowed the growth and it appears that yields of the third cutting will be light. The harvesting of wild hay continues in the range country. The upland hay is shorter than normal but the quality of the hay is generally good.

LIVESTOCK Livestock suffered with the high temperatures. Rates of gain on feedlot animals slowed considerably. Some pastures in the south and southeast have become short and dry. Supplemental feeding has been necessary in some areas to maintain the condition of the cattle.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 27, 1964

<u>East</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>West</u>	
Grand Island	.30	Burwell	0	Chadron	.16
Lincoln	.39	North Platte	.27	Imperial	0
Norfolk	.05	Valentine	.31	Scottsbluff	.13
Omaha	0			Sidney	.01
Sioux City	0				

