

Run - 1100 5/24/65

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Release 5/24/65

Week Ending 5/24/65

WEATHER It was a cloudy, rainy week with warm nights and mild days. Substantial amounts of precipitation were reported from all sections of the State during the week. Rain was still falling over the western third and locally elsewhere in the State Monday morning.

The week began with showers in many sections on Monday and Tuesday with local amounts in the east ranging up to an inch and a half. On Thursday the northeast and north central received additional rains and by the weekend showers spread over the entire State leaving amounts ranging from an inch upward. A band of very heavy thundershowers extended from Cass County across northern Lancaster southwestward across Fillmore to Webster and then westward as far as Red Willow County. Amounts at many stations in this band exceeded four inches and some had better than seven inches.

Temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees above normal for the week with nighttime readings generally in the 50s and 60s except for the 40s in the Panhandle Tuesday morning and elsewhere Wednesday. Monday and Thursday were the warmest days with readings in the 80s over most of the State.

CROPS Soil moisture conditions were greatly improved by rains that fell over the entire State during the past week and over the weekend. Planting of corn and sorghum was delayed in the eastern area because of wet soil, while in the western area planting was held up because of a lack of moisture. About 79 percent of the corn had been planted by the close of the week and 31 percent of the sorghum was in the ground. Early planted fields were up to good stands but some replanting will be necessary because of the severe washing and flooding that occurred because of heavy rains.

Planting of soybeans progressed rapidly with about 22 percent of the intended acreage in the ground and some of the early planted fields were up to good stands. In the Upper Platte Valley thinning of sugar beets was under way and farmers were securing seed potatoes for planting. Heavy rains in this area caused some local flooding with a loss of some sugar beet acreage and early planted corn. Some of this acreage may be replanted to beans.

Winter wheat prospects were greatly improved by the recent rains and the crop is heading over the southern half of the State and is in the boot stage in the southern part of the Panhandle. In the southwestern area some of the wheat was hurt severely by drought conditions but recent moisture improved production prospects not only in this area but in the Panhandle where only limited supplies of soil moisture had been available for the crop.

Harvest of alfalfa for dehydration purposes was under way and some farmers were starting to cut the crop for hay. Yield from the first cutting is expected to be rather light but a high quality hay is expected if proper curing weather prevails. Hay supplies are very short in practically all areas of the State. Pasture and range feed is very short in the western half of the State as drought conditions prevailed and low temperatures slowed growth of grasses even where moisture was available. Ranchers have been reluctant to turn onto summer ranges without having sufficient feed for cattle. Recent moisture improved grass and wild hay prospects.

LIVESTOCK Livestock maintained their condition during the past week. Range cattle, although having a short feed supply, continue in good condition and calves have been making fair gains. Only a limited movement of livestock was made because of dry conditions and this has been slowed as the outlook for feed has improved considerably. Farrowing of sows continued with litter sizes running average or better. Feed lot cattle have been making good gains. Inshipments of stocker and feeder cattle during April at 98,000 head were up 46 percent from a year ago. Sheep inshipments for April at 9,000 head were down 26 percent.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 1965

East		Central		West	
Grand Island	1.08	Burwell	1.97	Chadron	.61
Lincoln	4.01	North Platte	1.75	Imperial	.72
Norfolk	1.35	Valentine	.97	Scottsbluff	1.17
Omaha	3.39			Sidney	1.72
Sioux City	.95				

Precipitation, April 1 - May 21, 1965

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.81	.59	1.30	.72	1.71	.36	.86	.94
Total since April 1	3.08	3.33	5.09	3.56	6.68	2.85	4.29	4.53
Normal since April 1	3.75	4.20	4.63	4.49	4.74	3.97	4.51	5.18

