

Run 1800 5-6-74

# Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



Statistical Reporting Service, USDA  
and U.S. Department of Commerce  
Environmental Science Services Admn.  
National Weather Service

Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Division of Agr'l. Statistics  
Agricultural Extension Service  
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

Release 5/6/74

Week Ending 5/6/74

## WEATHER

Temperatures averaged above normal except for Friday and Saturday. Precipitation in the form of showers and thunderstorms occurred over the extreme south-eastern portion of the State early in the period with amounts locally up to 3.25 inches. Rainfall of less than a quarter of an inch fell over the west and north portions Thursday.

## CROPS

Nebraska farmers and ranchers enjoyed nearly ideal planting conditions in most localities and made excellent fieldwork progress. Corn planting progressed rapidly with winter wheat showing good growth and development. Alfalfa is currently in good condition despite the invasion of the alfalfa weevil.

Winter wheat is generally in good condition and virtually unchanged from last week with 80% good, 11% excellent and 9% fair. The crop has progressed well with good stands in most areas. The stage of development in many areas is jointed or early boot.

Corn planting progressed rapidly last week with most areas having ideal weather conditions. County agents report about 30% of the corn acreage planted, compared to 6% a year ago and 15% normal. Farmers are very concerned about how dry the surface soil is and some are holding up on planting. A few farmers in the Central and Southeast Districts have begun planting sorghum and soybeans.

Alfalfa hay continues to be in mostly good condition even though many fields have been invaded by alfalfa weevil. County agents report the crop condition as good in 78% of counties, fair in 16%, and excellent in 6%. The largest infestation of alfalfa weevils is in the Southeast District where some extensive damage has occurred. Weevils have also been sighted

in the Southwest, South Central and Northeast Districts. Alfalfa weevil populations are increasing at a rapid rate and causing much damage to the first cutting. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to contact their local county extension agent on recommended control measures to protect stands and production.

Wild hay is in mostly good condition. The crop condition is 76% good, 13% fair, 6% excellent, and 5% poor. Dry conditions have slowed growth and development.

## GENERAL

Nebraska farmers and ranchers made excellent fieldwork progress during the survey period (April 27-May 3). Six days were suitable for fieldwork. The main activities were seedbed preparation, fertilizing, buying seed, repairing machinery, spraying herbicides and insecticides.

Soil moisture supplies depleted rapidly over the week due to prevailing strong winds. Some areas reported wind erosion. Topsoil moisture supplies are now generally short with 57% of counties short and 43% adequate. Subsoil moisture supplies are likewise depleting with 93% adequate and 7% short. Beneficial rains during the week were pretty much confined to parts of the east central and most of the southeast districts. Most areas need a good rain to enable planted crops to germinate.

## LIVESTOCK

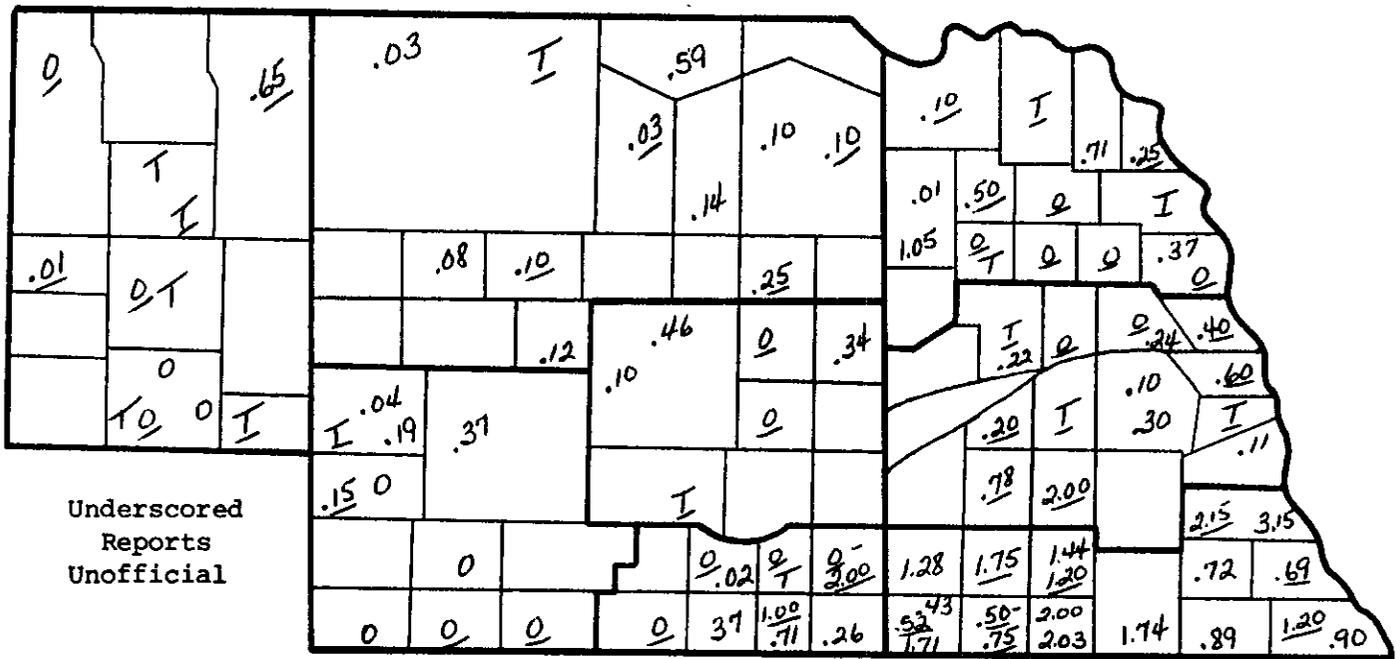
Pasture and range feed supply condition has declined due to lack of precipitation. County agents report feed supplies adequate in 73% of counties and 27% short.

Livestock are in good condition. Most cattle have been moved to summer pastures. This year's calf crop is reported doing well with little scour problem because of dry conditions.

Precipitation, April 1 - May 3, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.00	.20	.30	.20	.20	.10	.30	1.40
Total since April 1.....	1.40	2.20	1.80	1.80	2.40	1.10	2.50	3.20
Normal since April 1.....	2.13	2.42	2.62	2.48	2.73	2.21	2.51	2.87

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1974

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <sup>1/</sup>
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	81	30	54	--	.15
Scottsbluff	80	27	52	0	.06
Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC Burwell	--	--	--	--	--
Valentine	79	32	53	+1	.05
NE Norfolk	76	34	56	+1	.01
Sioux City	82	36	59	+3	T
CEN Grand Island	79	35	57	+1	T
EC Lincoln	73	36	56	-1	.07
Omaha	78	37	57	-1	0
SW Imperial	79	31	56	--	0
North Platte	75	31	53	-1	.10

<sup>1/</sup> Precipitation totals not included in map above.

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 211 Federal Building, Box 81069  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68501  
 Official Business

POSTAGE PAID  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
 AGRICULTURE  
 AGR-101

