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Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



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

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

Release 8/5/74

Week Ending 8/5/74

WEATHER

Temperatures averaged 7-10 degrees below normal with the entire period cool. Rainfall occurred as showers and thunderstorms with the greatest amounts recorded over the central and northeast portions of the State.

CROPS

Cooler temperatures and scattered showers mid-week, even though inadequate in most areas, were a welcome relief for many Nebraska ranchers and farmers. Recent cooler temperatures may improve completeness of pollination for late crops. Little fieldwork is being done except for some summer fallowing of wheat ground and tilling of stubble. Grass-hopper numbers and other insects are increasing and becoming serious problems in some areas.

Most of the survey week (July 27-August 2) was suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies remained short in 93% of reporting counties. Adequate supplies were reported in the Panhandle and northeastern counties that received rain during the week. Declining subsoil moisture conditions indicate 99% of reporting counties are now short compared to 93% previous week.

Irrigated corn condition was considered fair to good in 98% of counties. Nearly 95% of the irrigated corn has silked. Producers continue to pump water around the clock trying to meet sufficient water demands of the crop. Farmers that prepared and started an early irrigating season plan have covered most irrigated acreages in good shape.

Dryland corn condition improved slightly in areas receiving rain during the week but is rated poor in 73% of reporting counties, fair in 25% and good in only 2%. About 65% of dryland corn has silked. Silks that are shooting late are not pollinating normally. Farmers continue to cut corn, sudan, etc., for ensilage as a supplemental livestock feed.

Sorghum condition is mostly fair to good but 42% is poor compared with 36% last week. Heading is below normal this year with 40% of the crop now headed compared with 59% normal.

Soybean condition is declining with poor reported in 35% of counties, compared to 27% last week. About 35% of the soybean acreages have podded, below the normal 57% at this time. Many acreages have been hurt during the recent hot weather, burning blossoms and reducing podding.

Alfalfa condition improved very little with conditions remaining mostly poor to fair. About 40% of the third cutting has been harvested with indications of a very small crop. Some short second cutting acreages have been left for seed and are now in full bloom. Alfalfa prices statewide are rapidly rising. A few dehydrating plants have reduced production due to shortage of alfalfa and rising prices.

Wild hay condition is poor in 63% of counties, fair in 30% and good in 7%. Haying is in the final stages with virtually no regrowth on the mowed meadows.

In western Nebraska, sugar beet and dry bean conditions are good. Reports indicate a good beet crop with good sugar levels. Dry beans are blossoming and setting pods and should mature as scheduled.

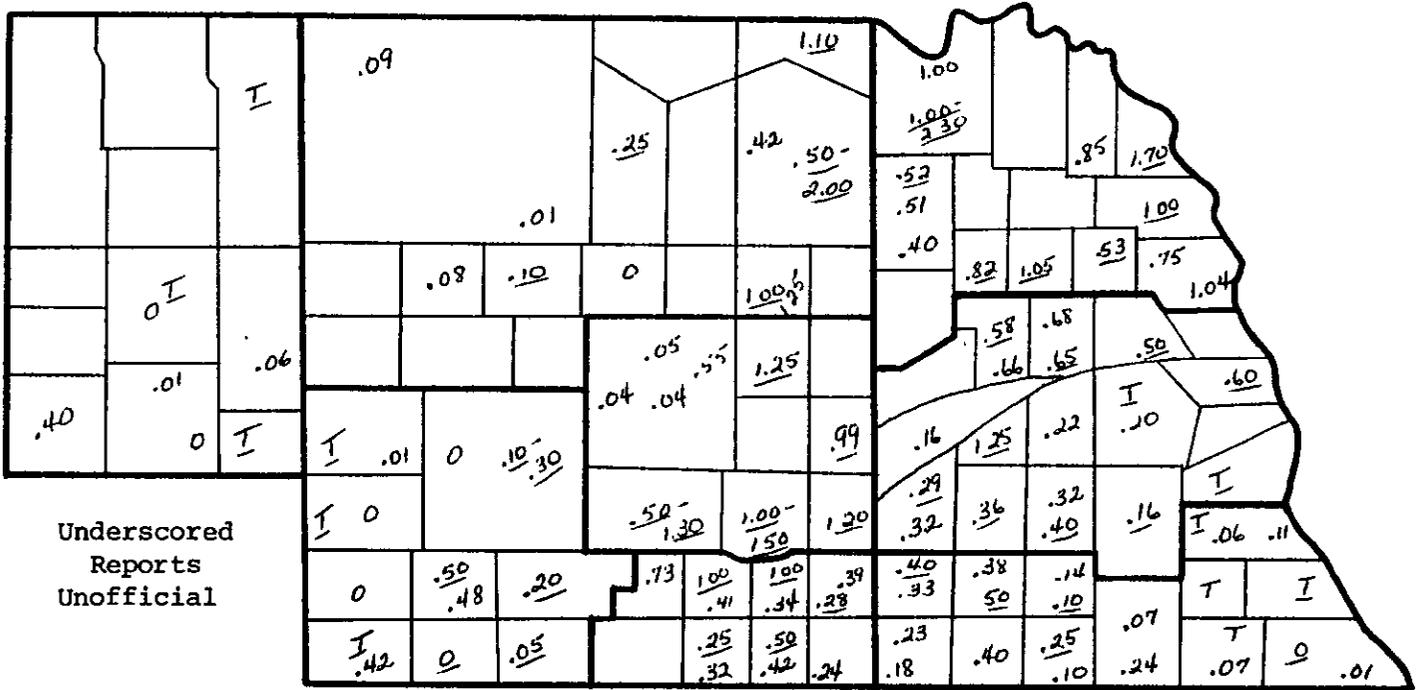
LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture feed supplies are declining and are now short in 97% of the counties. Range and pasture feed is adequate in some areas of the Panhandle. Supplemental feeding has started with many areas using fall and winter hay reserves.

Livestock continue to remain in generally good to fair condition. Hog men are marketing many sows and piggy sows due to weak feeder prices and high grain costs.

Cattlemen continue to cull breeding herds at abnormally high numbers and are selling at depressed prices. Some cattle are being moved to winter ranges. Problems with pink eye and flies continue.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1974



Underscored Reports
Unofficial

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1974

Station	Temperature				Precipitation	
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1/</u>	
	Max	Min				
NW	Chadron	91	42	68	--	.03
	Scottsbluff	89	42	68	-7	.14
	Sidney	87	38	--	--	--
NC	Burwell	91	40	--	--	.49
	Valentine	89	38	66	-9	.40
NE	Norfolk	90	46	66	-10	.68
	Sioux City	88	50	67	-9	1.78
CEN	Grand Island	93	46	68	-7	.57
EC	Lincoln	94	45	70	-8	.18
	Omaha	89	44	68	-10	.11
SW	Imperial	91	45	69	--	.02
	North Platte	91	38	67	-8	T

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

Precipitation, April 1 - August 2, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.00	.30	.80	.20	.40	.20	.40	.20
Total since April 1.....	5.72	7.32	11.62	9.77	9.81	8.50	8.95	8.90
Normal since April 1.....	9.84	11.48	13.29	12.68	13.98	10.87	12.53	14.93

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