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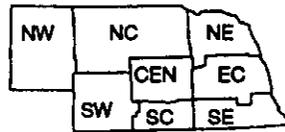
NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS



For Week Ending May 17, 1992

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 U.S. Department of Agriculture
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 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
 National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
 Division of Agr'l. Statistics
 Cooperative Extension Service
 Institute of Agriculture
 and Natural Resources-UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures for the week averaged from two to five degrees above normals. Precipitation amounts for the week varied from trace amounts in the northwest up to over two and a half inches in the central portion.

GENERAL

Fieldwork activities were in full swing again last week with only limited rain delays, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Irrigation systems continued to be used, where possible, in germinating planted crops where last week's rains weren't sufficient. Dry soil conditions continued to cause planting delays as some producers waited for rainfall before planting additional acres. Rains received this past weekend have brightened the spirits and outlook of area farmers and ranchers and should help dryland and irrigated crops. Crop and pasture conditions in this report are recorded prior to rains of May 16 and 17. Western Nebraska farmers were seriously concerned about available irrigation water as most areas did not receive enough rains to start planted crops or encourage hay and pasture growth.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition was rated at 10% very poor, 36% poor, 39% fair, and 15% good. The dry, windy weather conditions continued to stress wheat stands in various areas of the State. Presence of chinch bugs in the Southeast District were reported. The wheat crop was 25% headed as of Sunday. This compares with 15% last year at this time and 18% for the 5-year average.

CROPS (Cont.)

Corn planting made excellent progress again last week with 98% completed to date. This completion rate remained well ahead of last year at 84% and the 5-year average of 87%. Emergence has been slow and/or uneven where irrigation systems weren't providing water for germination. Reports also indicate that some replanting has occurred due to crusting, dry soil conditions, or wireworm damage.

Spring planting of soybeans and grain sorghum made very good progress last week. Some producers continued to wait for moisture for further plantings. Soybeans were 42% planted to date, compared with 24% last year and 29% for the average. Sorghum was 36% planted with comparisons of 22% for last year and 23% for the average.

Alfalfa condition was rated at 6% poor, 41% fair, 49% good, and 4% excellent. Alfalfa weevils were presenting a problem for producers in the East Central and Southeast Districts. Spraying for control as well as early cutting for control were active. Normal first cutting activity has begun in several areas. Wild hay condition was rated at 30% poor, 41% fair, 28% good, and 1% excellent.

LIVESTOCK

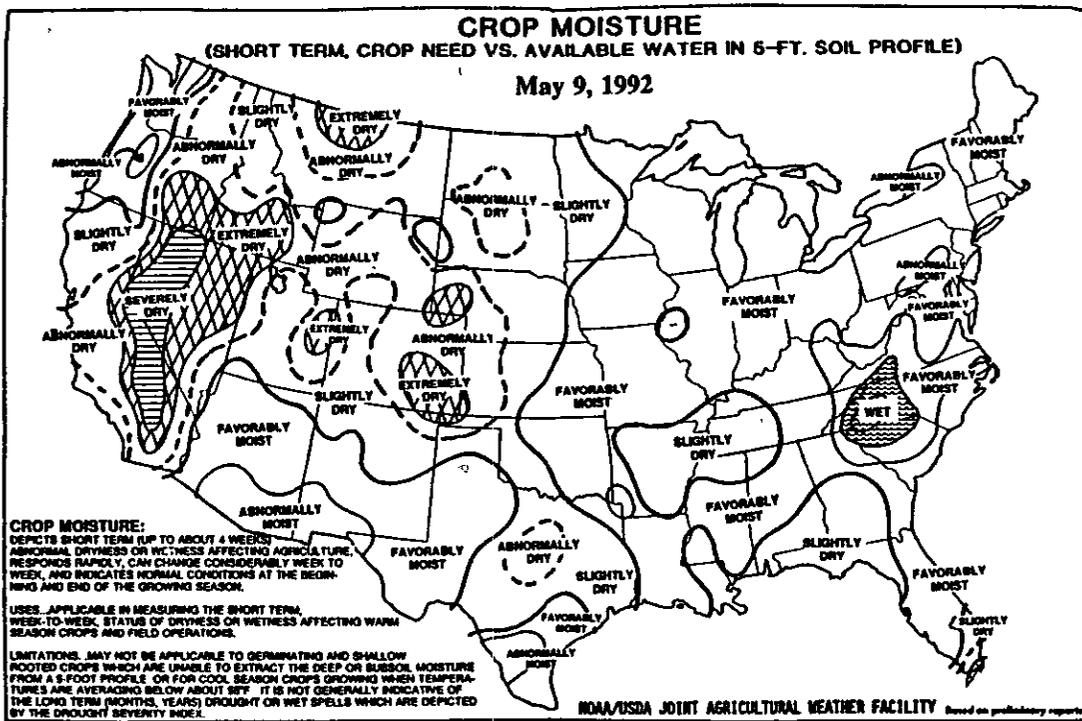
Pasture and range condition was rated at 77% of normal. Cattle continued to be moved onto pastures. Some producers continue to hold their cattle off pastures as grass growth was still limited. Additional moisture remained a necessity for adequate grass growth this spring and summer. Branding and working cattle continued last week. Feedlot cattle have been gaining well with good weather conditions.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 17, 1992	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% corn planted	89	100	98	98	99	94	99	98	98	81	84	87
% corn emerged	30	42	45	69	57	70	78	69	59	17	35	43
% sorghum planted	0	26	31	35	49	8	19	37	36	8	22	23
% sorghum emerged	0	0	2	7	3	0	0	2	2	0	2	4
% soybeans planted	0	20	27	41	43	10	50	60	42	10	24	29
% soybeans emerged	0	0	3	6	2	4	3	11	5	0	6	7
% wheat jointed	96	99	75	95	91	100	95	100	97	92	82	88
% wheat headed	6	6	1	33	9	60	17	18	25	1	15	18
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 15, 1992												
Days suitable	6.0	6.8	6.0	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.7	6.7	6.2	7.0	4.9	
Topsoil moisture - Short	93	100	68	73	80	100	85	94	85	74	4	
(Percent) - Adequate	7	0	32	27	20	0	15	6	15	26	73	
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	
Subsoil moisture - Short	73	8	21	53	8	46	39	44	34	26	44	
(Percent) - Adequate	27	92	79	47	92	54	61	56	66	73	55	
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	

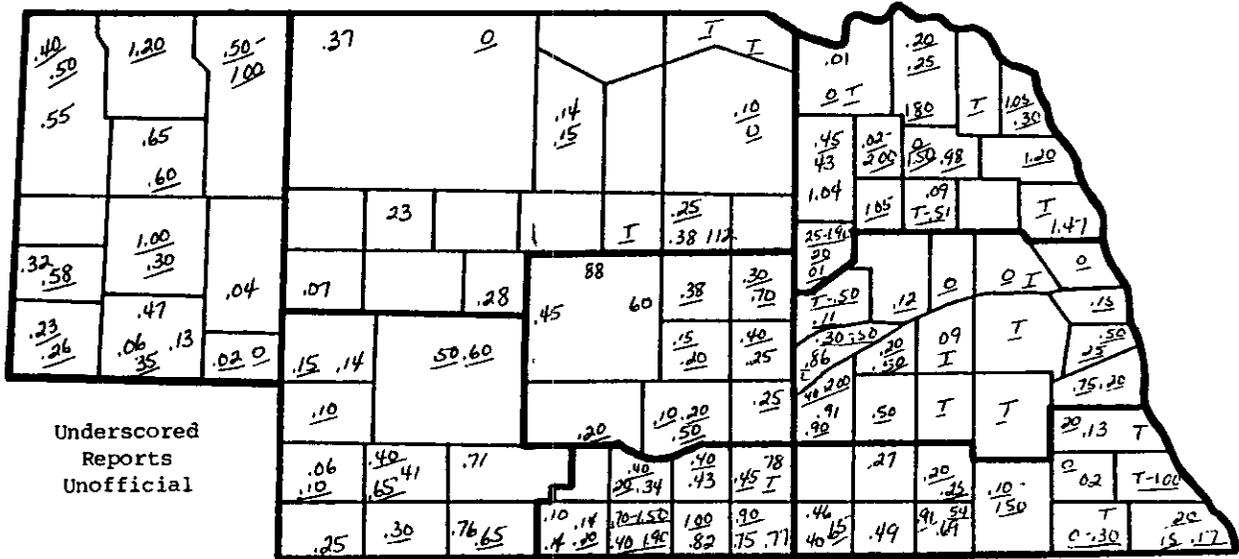
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PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1992



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 15, 1992

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week32	.32	.61	.55	.62	.39	.47	.27
Total since April 190	.77	1.85	1.03	1.71	.52	.90	2.06
Normal since April 1	3.23	3.76	4.26	4.11	4.73	3.27	3.83	4.69

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA,
WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1992

Station	Temperature				Precipitation Total Inches 1/	Growing Degree Data Since April 15			
	Extremes		Mean	Departure		Last Week	Current	Normal	
	Max	Min							
NW	Chadron	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
	Scottsbluff	86	36	60	+3	.03	305	402	255
	Sidney	87	31	60	---	---	276	377	264
NC	Valentine	88	30	61	+4	T	269	369	246
NE	Norfolk	82	38	62	+2	1.65	---	---	---
	Sioux City	81	44	62	+1	4.10	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	223	302	306
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	229	314	288
	West Point*	---	---	---	---	---	236	324	312
CEN	Grand Island	85	40	63	+3	2.51	264	374	292
	Ord	---	---	---	---	---	255	352	308
EC	Lincoln	87	40	65	+4	1.43	268	390	315
	Omaha	86	50	64	+3	.94	254	367	285
	Columbus	---	---	---	---	---	253	359	299
	York	---	---	---	---	---	257	368	318
SW	Imperial	87	45	64	---	---	---	---	---
	North Platte	86	38	62	+5	1.64	**272	**375	**299
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	285	393	326
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	260	371	359
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	264	372	332

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above. * Automated weather station. ** North Platte Experiment Station.

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.