

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

NEBRASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

For Week Ending May 18, 1997

Issue: 11-97

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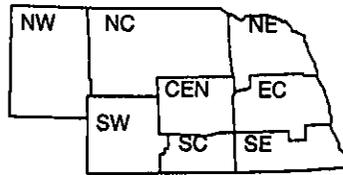
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National Weather Service



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

WEATHER

Temperatures were near normals in the Panhandle while the remainder of the State averaged two to seven degrees below normals. Precipitation was light across the State averaging from traces to ten hundredths of an inch.

GENERAL

Excellent weather conditions last week helped promote rapid fieldwork progress, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Most producers were nearly finished with corn planting and many got a good start on soybeans and sorghum. Record low temperatures were recorded in many parts of the State early Tuesday, but, with most of the corn not yet emerged, the crop was not severely affected. Although the dry weather conditions were great for fieldwork activities, rain was needed to encourage crop emergence and grass growth. Additionally, southwestern wheat fields are in dire need of moisture. Producer activities included spring tillage, fertilizer application, field preparation for millet, sunflowers, and dry beans in the west, working and moving cattle to summer pastures.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition declined from the previous week and rated 2% very poor, 14% poor, 44% fair, 37% good and 3% excellent. Best crop conditions continued to be reported in the south central and central portions of Nebraska. By Sunday, 63% of the crop had jointed behind 68% last year and 84% for the five-year average. This year's crop was beginning to show signs of stress due to lack of moisture in parts of the southwest and south central counties. The effects of last weeks freezing temperatures were still being evaluated.

CROPS (Cont.)

Much of the Panhandle crop had not yet jointed at the time of the freeze.

Corn planting advanced at a rapid pace with 94% complete as of Sunday. This is ahead of last year's 82% progress and the five-year average of 73%. Emergence was rated at 40%, ahead of last year's 38% and the five-year average of 33%.

Soybean planting was in full swing with 42% planted by week's end, ahead of last year's 13% and the five-year average of 23%. The crop was 3% emerged compared with 1% last year and 5% average.

Sorghum planting activities picked up with 27% complete as of Sunday. This is ahead of 7% last year and 16% average.

Oats emergence rated 91%, compared with 99% last year. The crop condition rated at 1% very poor, 5% poor, 45% fair, 48% good, and 1% excellent.

Alfalfa condition declined from the previous week and rated 6% very poor, 13% poor, 37% fair, 40% good and 4% excellent. Alfalfa seed was in high demand as producers replanted damaged stands in north central and northeastern counties. Tuesday's frost damaged newly seeded alfalfa. The next couple of weeks will determine how the first cutting was effected.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition dropped from the previous week and rated 3% very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 48% good, and 2% excellent. Pasture growth continued slow due to lack of moisture and cool temperatures. Cattle were being moved to summer pastures, but, supplemental feeding is necessary in most areas.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 18, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	92	93	90	93	94	95	98	98	94	70	82	73
% Corn Emerged	25	24	9	48	41	57	60	49	40	6	38	33
% Wheat Jointed	27	41	39	61	87	86	89	99	63	44	68	84
% Wheat Headed	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	n/a	1	10
% Sorghum Planted	0	17	14	30	34	40	36	19	27	5	7	16
% Sorghum Emerged	0	0	0	5	0	2	2	0	1	n/a	0	3
% Soybeans Planted	0	37	24	53	45	63	73	56	42	5	13	23
% Soybeans Emerged	0	0	0	20	1	2	4	5	3	n/a	1	5
% Oats Emerged	90	93	88	81	96	99	99	99	91	73	99	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 16, 1997												
Days suitable	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	5.7	3.0	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	5	5	0	2	10	33	10	0	7	1	2	
- Short	51	42	24	37	35	50	43	25	38	16	14	
- Adequate	44	53	76	60	55	17	47	74	55	79	72	
- Surplus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	12	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	1	3	0	0	0	14	0	0	2	0	3	
- Short	25	5	8	19	5	50	18	11	16	11	27	
- Adequate	75	92	91	74	94	36	82	88	81	86	68	
- Surplus	0	0	1	7	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	

n/a = not available

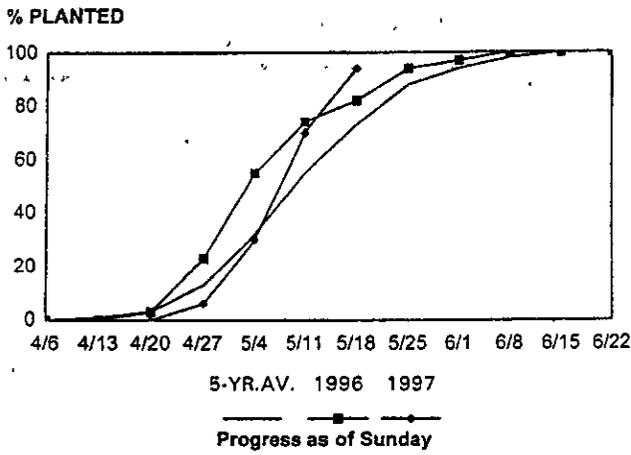
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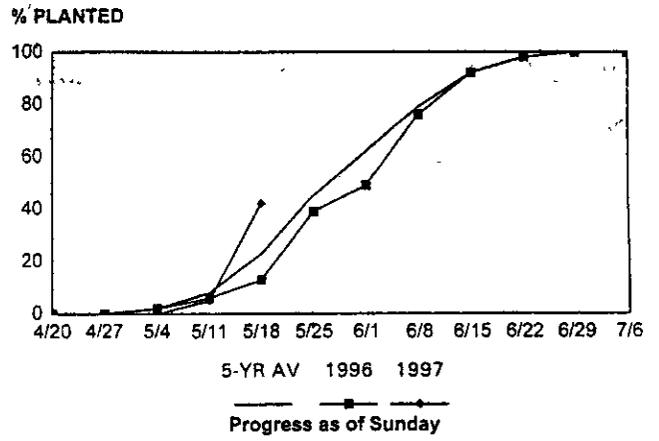
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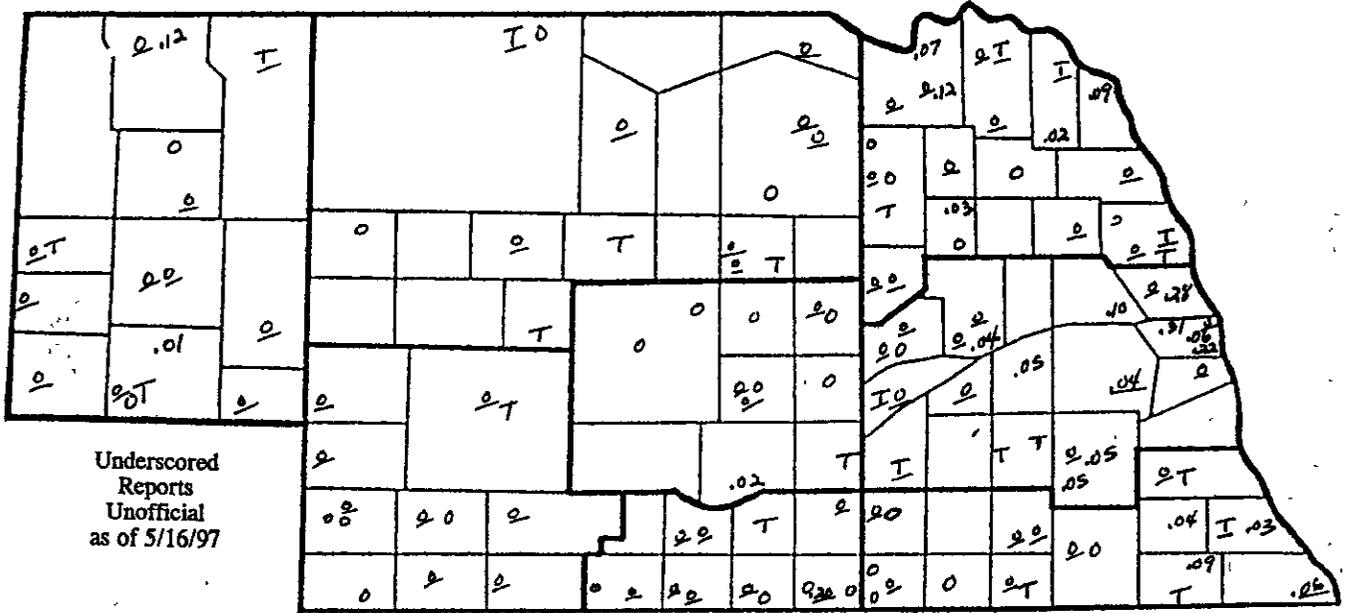
CORN PLANTED



SOYBEANS PLANTED



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1996



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 17, 1997

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.02	.01	.03	.01	.10	.01	.01	.01
Total since April 1	2.36	3.27	3.40	2.83	3.90	1.05	2.26	4.58
Normal since April 1	3.47	3.99	4.50	4.43	5.02	3.67	4.23	4.98
Total as % of normal	68%	82%	76%	64%	78%	29%	53%	92%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1997

Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
	Extremes		Mean	Departure		Total Inches	Last Week	Current
	Max	Min						
NW Chadron	91	30	56	---	.12	---	---	---
Scottsbluff	89	30	57	+1	T	194	298	256
Sidney	86	26	55	---	T	190	287	258
NC Valentine	90	29	54	-3	0	---	---	---
Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	181	281	283
O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	161	252	300
NE Norfolk	91	26	56	-4	.03	---	---	---
Sioux City	91	25	54	-7	.09	---	---	---
Concord	---	---	---	---	---	153	243	305
Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	153	249	302
West Point	---	---	---	---	---	169	258	315
CEN Grand Island	92	32	58	-2	T	---	---	---
Ord	90	30	57	---	0	178	273	309
Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	209	310	314
EC Lincoln	91	27	57	-4	.05	199	290	333
Omaha	91	30	56	-5	.06	---	---	---
Central City	---	---	---	---	---	194	291	314
Mead	---	---	---	---	---	196	288	326
SW Imperial	92	32	60	---	0	---	---	---
North Platte	90	27	56	-2	T	216	323	293
McCook	---	---	---	---	---	245	358	303
SC Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	215	320	314
Reid Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	214	316	315
SE Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	203	297	333
Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	203	302	316

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.