NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

For Week Ending July 26, 1998

NASS NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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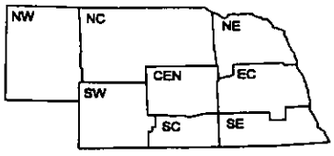

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
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WEATHER

Temperatures across the State averaged within a degree or two of normals for this time of year. Precipitation was widespread across the State with averages ranging from just over three tenths in the northeast to around two and a half inches in the southwest.

GENERAL

Triple digit temperatures early in the week gave way to much cooler conditions, reducing heat stress on crops and livestock, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service However, this was reportedly too late for some dryland corn in southwestern areas which was being cut for silage. Wheat harvest moved toward an early completion, until being slowed by precipitation and high humidity. Storms again battered western Panhandle counties with heavy rain and hail. Irrigation slowed in some areas due to rainfall, but most continued running to assure adequate moisture during the critical pollination period Producer activities included oat harvest, weed control, hay harvest, summer fallow work and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat harvest, at 92% complete, continued well ahead of 85% last year and 71% average. Virtually all, or 99%, of the crop was ripe or beyond, also ahead of 96% last year and 94% average. Harvest was nearing completion in all but a few Panhandle counties

Corn condition rated ahead of last year at 1% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 61% good, and 21% excellent. Dryland corn rated 76% in good or excellent condition and 86% of the irrigated corn rated in those categories. Silking had occurred on 87% of the acreage, well ahead of 64% last year and 54% average. Acreage having reached the dough stage was at 4%, ahead of 2% last year but near 5% average. Comments regarding pollination were

CROPS (Cont.)

positive, citing the high humidity and lack of hot dry winds as having benefited the crop's development. Stored grain was a concern as some with inadequate drying last fall were found to be going out of condition

Soybean condition rated above last year at 1%very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 58% good, and 22% excellent. Blooming had occurred on 80% of the acreage, ahead of 71% last year and 58% average. Podding was occurring on 20% of the acreage, also ahead of 8% last year and 13% average.

Sorghum condition also rated above last year at 2% poor, 24% fair, 66% good, and 8% excellent Heading had begun on 16% of the acreage, compared to 9% last year and 12% average.

Dry bean condition rated 6% poor, 37% fair, 49% good and 8% excellent Blooming had occurred on 42% of the acreage, behind 69% last year and 53% average.

The final oats condition rating was 3% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 64% good, and 10% excellent. Oat harvest was 70% complete, just behind 75% last year but well ahead of 55% average.

Alfalfa condition rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 61% good and 12% excellent. The second cutting activities moved near completion at 86%, ahead of 76% last year and 72% average. Wild hay condition rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, and 12% exellent

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 2% very poor, 6% poor, 17% fair, 62% good, and 13% excellent Supplemental feeding continued in portions of the southwest. Elsewhere, herds were being rotated to ungrazed pastures to allow for re-growth. Producers continued to monitor feedlot cattle early in the week for heat stress.

CROP PROGRESS AS OF JULY 26, 1998	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Wheat Ripe	99	100	98	100	100	100	100	100	99	91	96	74
% Wheat Harvested	85	96	38	94	99	99	100	100	92	73	85	71
% Corn Silked	43	74	87	93	91	74	92	98	87	67	64	54
% Corn Dough Stage	1	2	2	7	3	6	3	9	4	n/a	2	5
% Soybeans Blooming	n/a	64	69	73	86	74	98	95	80	67	71	58
% Soybeans Setting Pods	n/a	11	11	26	22	10	21	30	20	6	8	13
% Sorghum Headed	n/a	1	7	5	12	10	6	22	16	1	9	12
% Alfafa Second Cutting	71	76	89	89	92	95	91	94	86	64	76	72
% Oats Harvested	14	70	69	61	86	75	85	96	70	27	75	55
% Dry Beans Blooming	42	15	44	20	n/a	53	n/a	n/a	42	14	69	53
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF JULY 24, 1998												
Days suitable	59	55	62	43	40	48	46	49	52	64	66	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	0	0	1	0	0	15	0	0	2	3	29	
(Percent) - Short	26	25	28	8	24	32	17	21	24	25	42	
- Adequate	71	73	70	88	72	45	81	78	71	68	29	
- Surplus	3	2	1	4	4	8	2	1	3	4	0	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	2	3	19	
(Percent) - Short	20	24	12	10	15	34	21	18	19	17	38	
- Adequate	80	76	88	87	84	42	79	81	78	77	43	
- Surplus	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	1	1	3	0	

n/a = not available

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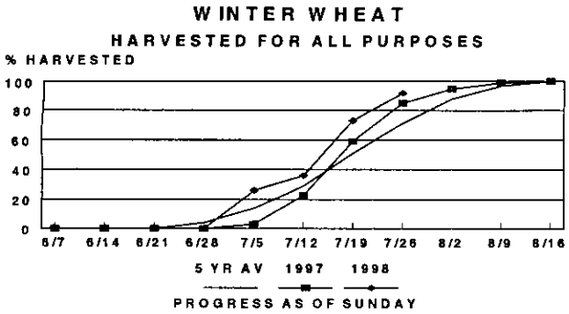

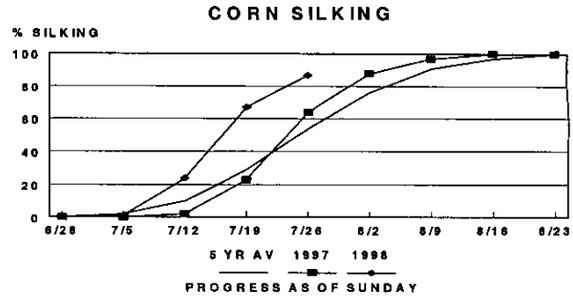

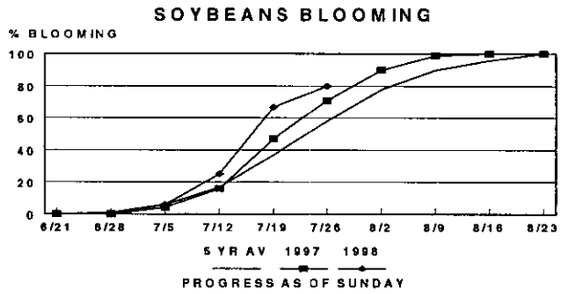

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - JULY 25, 1998

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1 11	83	32	1 79	1 69	2 45	1 87	1 63
Total since April 1	9 83	15 48	17 53	14 12	20 45	11 74	11 97	14 61
Normal since April 1	9 77	11 56	12 98	12 70	13 80	10 99	12 50	13 91
Total as % of normal	101%	134%	135%	111%	148%	107%	96%	105%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1998

Station		Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Since April 15	
		Max	Min					Curremt	Normal
NW	Chadron	103	53	74	---	26	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	102	59	75	0	35	368	1673	1713
	Sidney	104	59	75	---	1 00	148	1372	1440
NC	Valentine	103	59	74	-2	88	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	147	1438	1551
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	165	1605	1664
NE	Norfolk	96	57	75	-1	19	---	---	---
	Sioux City	90	56	75	-1	10	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	155	1617	1717
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	155	1637	1705
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	162	1745	1815
CEN	Grand Island	104	63	76	-1	54	163	1744	1727
	Ord	101	65	77	---	67	168	1673	1713
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	158	1735	1717
EC	Lincoln	102	63	79	0	1 45	180	1906	1886
	Omaha	97	64	77	+1	2 30	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	163	1748	1745
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	178	1873	1872
SW	Imperial	108	60	77	---	2 14	---	---	---
	North Platte	105	59	75	0	3 88	154	1603	1596
	Curtis	---	---	---	---	---	164	1699	1629
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	159	1740	1709
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	182	1974	1735
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	166	1825	1885
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	161	1789	1739

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