

Issue NE-CW3802, released September 23, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending September 22, 2002, fall harvest progressed at a slow pace as producers await further field dry down, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The previous weeks moisture aided wheat germination but subsoil moisture supplies showed 93 percent short and very short across the State. Producer activities included preparations for fall harvest and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Access weekly reports back to 1947 and current county specific comments at: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/agstats/cropwthr.htm>

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from near normals to five degrees below normals across the state. Precipitation was scattered and very light statewide with only the extreme southeast and a few areas along the Missouri River receiving amounts greater than one-half inch.

Field Crops Report: All corn condition rated 33 percent good and excellent, well below the average of 62. Irrigated corn condition rated 51 percent good and excellent, below the five-year average of 75. Dryland corn rated 8 percent good and excellent, far below the average of 47. Seventy percent was mature, ahead of last year at 65 and average at 67. Harvest for grain or seed progressed to 10 percent combined to date, ahead of last year at 6 but the same as average.

Soybean condition rated 22 percent very poor, 26 poor, 29 fair, 19 good, and 4 excellent, well below last year and average. Ninety-five percent of the acreage had turned color, ahead of last

last year at 92 but the same as average. Leaves were dropping on 68 percent of the acreage, ahead of last year at 53 but the same as average. Harvest was 6 percent complete, near last year at 4 and average at 6.

Sorghum condition rated 36 percent very poor, 32 poor, 27 fair, and 5 good, well below last year and average. Fields were turning color on 90 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 94 and average at 96. Sixty-three percent was mature, ahead of last year at 51 and average at 54. Ten percent had been harvested, ahead of last year at 4 but behind average at 11.

Dry bean harvest was 33 percent completed, behind last year at 51 and average at 61.

Proso millet harvest was 52 percent combined to date, behind 62 percent last year.

Wheat seeding progressed to 61 percent sown to date, ahead of last year at 52 and average at 60 percent. Thirty-one percent had emerged, ahead of last year at 19 and average at 20.

Alfalfa condition rated 30 percent very poor, 26 poor, 26 fair, 16 good, and 2 excellent, well below last year and average. Where growth permitted a fourth cutting, those activities were 63 percent complete, ahead of last year at 45 and average at 44.

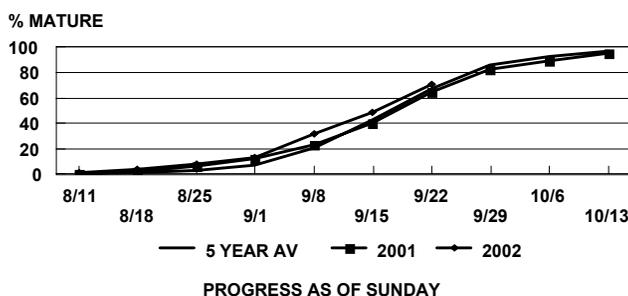
Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 57 percent very poor, 27 poor, 11 fair, and 5 good, well below average. Cattle on pastures continued to receive supplemental feed. Cattle are being moved to stalk fields as fields become available.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of September 22, 2002

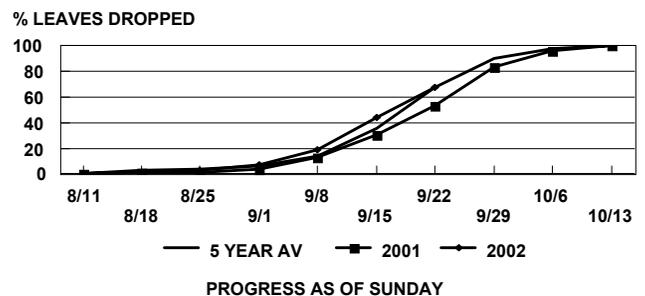
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Mature	27	45	70	70	76	45	82	88	70	49	65	67
% Corn Harvested	0	3	6	11	11	2	11	20	10	7	6	10
% Soybeans Turning Color	¹	99	96	97	92	93	95	94	95	85	92	95
% Soybeans Dropping Leaves	¹	61	68	85	68	46	78	63	68	44	53	68
% Soybeans Harvested	¹	2	7	4	8	4	4	3	6	1	4	6
% Sorghum Turning Color	60	79	99	87	93	76	93	94	90	80	94	96
% Sorghum Mature	20	41	44	61	60	44	54	71	63	36	51	54
% Sorghum Harvested	0	0	0	0	10	0	15	16	10	8	4	11
% Wheat Seeded	82	52	53	67	31	42	43	32	61	30	52	60
% Wheat Emerged	52	25	10	30	1	6	5	3	31	10	19	20
% Alfalfa 4th Cutting	20	54	72	67	70	91	69	40	63	43	45	44
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.7	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.3	6.6	5.2	3.8	5.8
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	39	39	11	53	22	66	32	52	39	29	4	18
- % Short	36	47	42	42	49	18	45	37	39	34	20	34
- % Adequate	25	14	47	5	29	16	23	11	22	37	70	46
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	75	76	38	68	53	75	85	75	68	67	10	23
- % Short	19	18	42	32	34	19	15	20	25	24	35	32
- % Adequate	6	6	20	0	12	6	0	5	7	9	53	44
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1

¹ Data not available.

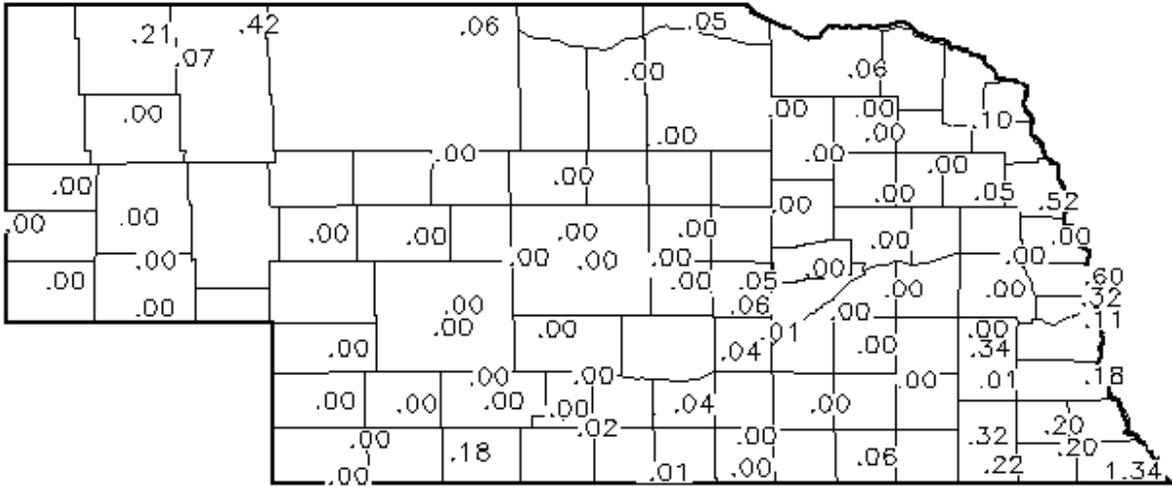
**CORN
MATURE**



**SOYBEANS
LEAVES DROPPED**



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending September 22, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 22, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.07	.07	.06	.02	.08	.03	.03	.15
Total since April 1	7.76	11.85	16.09	10.79	17.62	8.07	10.89	15.81
Normal since April 1	12.71	16.24	18.65	17.72	20.24	15.20	17.73	21.19
Total as % of normal	61%	73%	86%	61%	86%	53%	61%	74%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, September 22, 2002

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	85	31	56	-3
	Scottsbluff	88	28	55	-3
	Sidney	83	31	56	-3
NC	Ainsworth	86	37	60	0
	Arthur	82	35	57	-3
	O'Neill	85	36	61	0
NE	Concord	84	38	61	0
	Elgin	83	39	62	0
	West Point	85	39	62	-1
C	Grand Island	85	35	61	-1
	Lexington	87	35	61	-1
	Ord	83	36	61	-1
EC	Lincoln	84	44	65	0
	Central City	87	35	62	1
	Mead	83	42	63	-1
SW	Champion	86	30	58	-3
	North Platte	86	33	59	-2
	Curtis	89	35	61	0
SC	Arapahoe	82	29	55	-5
	Minden	86	36	61	-1
	Red Cloud	85	39	63	0
SE	Beatrice	85	40	63	-1
	Clay Center	85	37	62	-1
	Nemaha	90	46	67	1

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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