

Issue NE-CW1904, released May 10, 2004, 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 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 9, 2004, corn and soybean planting made excellent progress with both ahead of last year and average, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This progress was made possible by limited precipitation and above normal temperatures. As a result, many pivots were being run to germinate seed. Other producer activities included sorghum planting and other fieldwork.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from 5 to 13 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was very light over the western half of the state while over 1 inch was received in isolated areas of the south central and northeast.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending May 9, 2004**

| | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Topsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 17 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| Short | 41 | 34 | 5 | 15 |
| Adequate | 41 | 57 | 79 | 64 |
| Surplus | 1 | 0 | 5 | 13 |
| Subsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 39 | 34 | 12 | 15 |
| Short | 40 | 41 | 36 | 26 |
| Adequate | 21 | 27 | 50 | 55 |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Days Suitable | 6.5 | 5.6 | 1.9 | 3.6 |

Field Crops Report: Corn planting jumped to 85 percent complete, about 2 weeks ahead of 42 last year and 10 days ahead of 56 average. Twenty-nine percent of the crop was emerged, ahead of last year at 11 and average at 17.

Soybean planting progressed to 25 percent complete, 10 days ahead of last year at 5 and a week ahead of average at 14.

Sorghum planting advanced to 7 percent complete, ahead of 2 last year and 4 average.

Wheat condition rated 11 percent very poor, 18 poor, 36 fair, 32 good, and 3 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 82 percent jointed, about a week ahead of last year at 68 and average at 58. Wheat was

heading out in the southern and east central districts and reached 3 percent headed, ahead of last year at 1 and average at 2.

Oat planting was virtually complete with 82 percent emerged. Emergence was slightly behind last year and average at 83.

Sugar beet planting was virtually complete. A year ago 88 percent had been planted.

Alfalfa conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 11 poor, 34 fair, 43 good, and 8 excellent. First cutting activities were underway with 2 percent harvested to date.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending May 9, 2004

| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Alfalfa 1 st Cutting | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Corn Planted | 85 | 52 | 42 | 56 |
| Corn Emerged | 29 | 7 | 11 | 17 |
| Oats Planted | 99 | 96 | 95 | 96 |
| Oats Emerged | 82 | 67 | 83 | 83 |
| Soybeans Planted | 25 | 5 | 5 | 14 |
| Sorghum Planted | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Wheat Jointed | 82 | 54 | 68 | 58 |
| Wheat Headed | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

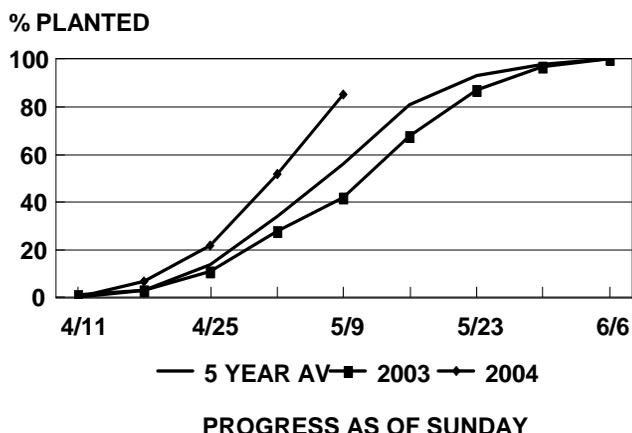
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 9, 2004

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | 4 | 11 | 34 | 43 | 8 |
| Wheat | 11 | 18 | 36 | 32 | 3 |

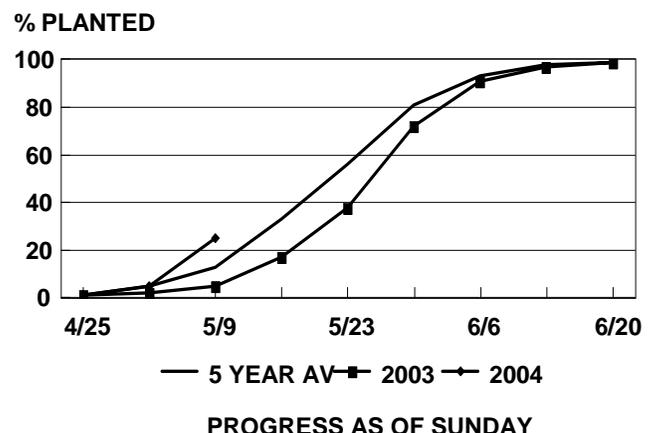
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 13 percent very poor, 24 poor, 37 fair, 24 good and 2 excellent, below a year ago and average. Producers continued to turn cattle onto pastures.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

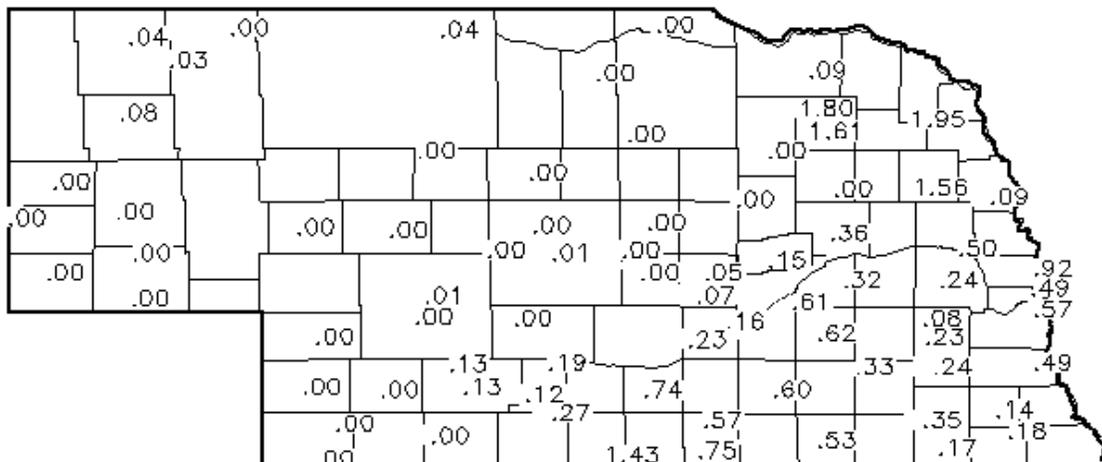
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 9, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 9, 2004

| Item | NW | NC | NE | CEN | EC | SW | SC | SE |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total past week | .01 | .01 | .60 | .06 | .43 | .04 | .55 | .44 |
| Total since April 1 | 1.46 | 1.49 | 2.95 | 2.00 | 1.76 | 2.16 | 2.39 | 1.90 |
| Normal since April 1 | 2.62 | 3.02 | 3.59 | 3.42 | 3.84 | 2.80 | 3.15 | 3.91 |
| Total as % of normal | 55% | 49% | 82% | 59% | 46% | 77% | 77% | 48% |

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

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 9, 2004

| Station | Temperature | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----|---------|-----------|----|
| | Extremes | | Average | Departure | |
| | High | Low | | | |
| NW | Alliance | 93 | 34 | 63 | 10 |
| | Scottsbluff | 93 | 38 | 66 | 13 |
| | Sidney | 91 | 35 | 63 | 10 |
| NC | Ainsworth | 95 | 35 | 65 | 9 |
| | Arthur | 93 | 36 | 66 | 11 |
| | O'Neill | 97 | 31 | 64 | 7 |
| NE | Concord | 90 | 27 | 63 | 5 |
| | Elgin | 94 | 29 | 65 | 7 |
| | West Point | 92 | 29 | 64 | 5 |
| C | Grand Island | 95 | 34 | 69 | 11 |
| | Lexington | 95 | 37 | 69 | 11 |
| | Ord | 94 | 31 | 66 | 8 |
| EC | Lincoln | 91 | 29 | 69 | 9 |
| | Central City | 95 | 30 | 69 | 10 |
| | Mead | 92 | 26 | 68 | 8 |
| SW | Champion | 97 | 35 | 66 | 10 |
| | North Platte | 97 | 37 | 67 | 11 |
| | Curtis | 95 | 30 | 67 | 11 |
| SC | Arapahoe | 94 | 34 | 66 | 11 |
| | Minden | 96 | 31 | 69 | 11 |
| | Red Cloud | 92 | 31 | 68 | 10 |
| SE | Beatrice | 94 | 28 | 68 | 8 |
| | Clay Center | 91 | 26 | 67 | 8 |
| | Nemaha | 95 | 33 | 70 | 8 |

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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 Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service
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 Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1069
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