

Issue NE-CW3804, released September 20, 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 September 19, 2004, above normal temperatures pushed crop maturity with soybeans now ahead of last year and average, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn and soybean harvest has begun in several areas of the state. Producer activities included finishing silage harvest, fall wheat seeding, and harvesting alfalfa.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged from 4 to 11 degrees above normals. Precipitation was statewide and ranged to over two inches. Hail damage was reported in some counties.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 19, 2004**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	17	28	26	28
Short	39	40	35	31
Adequate	44	32	37	39
Surplus	0	0	2	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	40	42	42	40
Short	34	36	42	31
Adequate	26	22	16	28
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	5.2	6.5	5.4	5.8

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 3 percent very poor, 6 poor, 20 fair, 46 good, and 25 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 80 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 58. This compares to 75 and 12, respectively, a year ago. Ninety percent had denting, behind last year at 94 and average at 97. Thirty-two percent of the fields were considered mature, behind last year at 43 and average at 57. Harvest was underway in several districts with 4 percent complete, behind last year at 5 and average at 9.

Soybeans condition rated 4 percent very poor, 12 poor, 29 fair, 43 good, and 12 excellent, still well above last year and average. Eighty-nine percent of the acreage was turning color, ahead of last year at 82 and average at 88. Plants had dropped leaves on 57 percent of the acreage, ahead of last year at 44 percent and average at 52. Harvest was underway in several districts with 6 percent complete, ahead of last year at 2 and average at 4.

Sorghum condition rated 4 percent very poor, 12 poor, 43 fair, 35 good, and 6 excellent, still well above last year and average. Fields were showing color on 82 percent of the acreage, ahead of last year at 81 but behind average at 89. Fifteen percent of the acreage was mature, behind last year at 25 and average at 43. Harvest had made a limited start in a few areas.

Dry bean conditions rated 6 percent very poor, 16 poor, 26 fair, 44 good, and 8 excellent. Seventy-nine percent had turned color, well behind last year at 94 and average at 93. Forty percent had

dropped leaves, well behind last year at 77 and average at 78. Eight percent were harvested, behind last year at 33 and average at 44.

Proso millet harvest progressed to 30 percent complete, behind last year at 59.

Wheat seeding progressed to 48 percent planted to date, ahead of last year at 55 and average at 50. Fourteen percent had emerged, behind last year at 21 and average at 16.

Alfalfa conditions declined and rated 14 percent very poor, 22 poor, 31 fair, 28 good, and 5 excellent, above last year and average. Third cutting activities progressed to 96 percent complete, behind last year and average at 98. Fourth cutting activities were 28 percent harvested, behind last year at 43 and average at 47.

**Crop Progress:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 19, 2004**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	28	20	43	47
Corn Mature	32	11	43	57
Corn Harvested	4	1	5	9
Sorghum Turning Color	82	67	81	89
Sorghum Mature	15	6	25	43
Sorghum Harvested	1	0	1	11
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	57	21	44	52
Soybeans Harvested	6	0	2	4
Wheat Seeded	48	28	55	50
Wheat Emerged	14	0	21	16

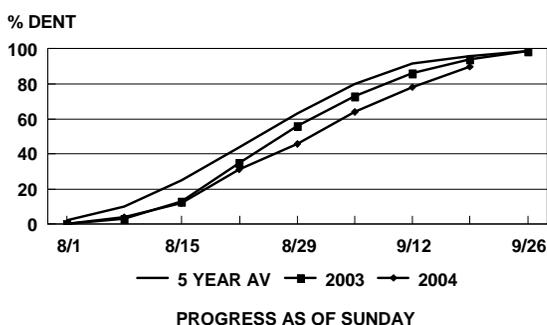
**Crop Condition:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 19, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	14	22	31	28	5
Corn	3	6	20	46	25
Sorghum	4	12	43	35	6
Soybeans	4	12	29	43	12

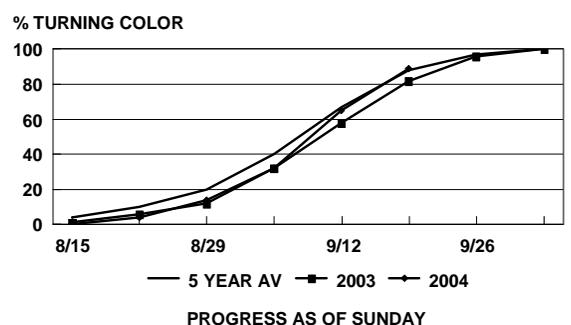
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 20 percent very poor, 30 poor, 31 fair, 19 good, and none excellent, but remained above a year ago and average.

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/cropwth/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwth/2004.htm>.

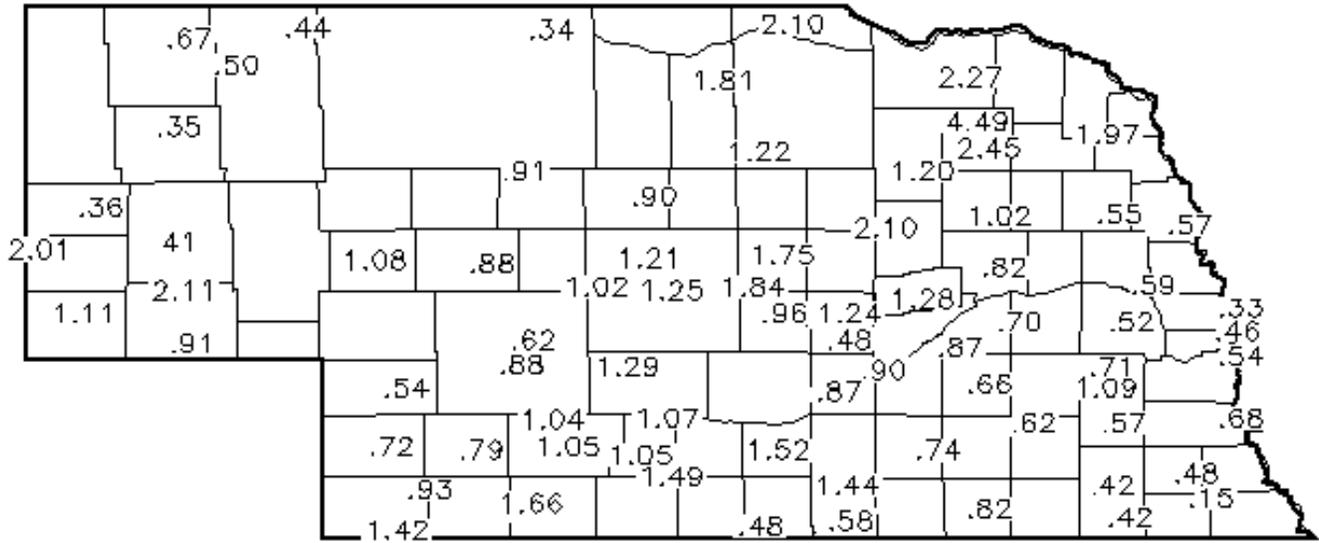
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending September 19, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 19, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week 1	1.13	1.31	1.84	1.17	.72	1.01	1.29	.53
Total since April 1	12.89	14.70	18.03	15.56	15.97	16.84	15.56	17.62
Normal since April 1	12.59	15.90	18.39	17.48	19.90	15.05	17.28	20.83
Total as % of normal	101%	92%	98%	89%	80%	111%	90%	84%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, September 19, 2004**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	92	42	64	+4	101	2167	2479
	Scottsbluff	92	40	64	+4	103	2325	2475
	Sidney	91	43	65	+5	109	2249	2552
NC	Ainsworth	91	46	68	+6	127	2464	2801
	Arthur	91	44	68	+6	125	2290	2709
	O'Neill	90	45	70	+7	135	2513	2886
NE	Concord	91	45	69	+6	133	2488	2964
	Elgin	93	47	70	+7	136	2544	2912
	West Point	93	43	71	+6	141	2643	3082
C	Grand Island	96	46	72	+9	145	2752	2888
	Lexington	97	48	72	+10	144	2829	2827
	Ord	93	44	70	+7	136	2646	2861
EC	Lincoln	95	49	76	+10	166	3040	3180
	Central City	95	44	72	+9	150	2753	2936
	Mead	96	44	74	+8	154	2819	3155
SW	Champion	96	41	69	+7	130	2513	2737
	North Platte	97	41	70	+7	136	2611	2775
	Curtis	99	42	71	+8	139	2706	2782
SC	Smithfield	96	47	71	+8	139	2688	2837
	Minden	97	47	73	+11	na	na	na
	Red Cloud	96	46	74	+11	156	2952	2918
SE	Beatrice	96	45	74	+9	157	2969	3180
	Clay Center	95	44	72	+9	146	2741	2915
	Nemaha	92	52	74	+9	161	3074	3194

na = Not available.

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
 Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service
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 Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1069
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