

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 10/19/48 Noon

Week Ending 10/18/48

WEATHER The week was dry and rather cool, with a hard freeze throughout the State on Sunday morning. Light snow fell over the Panhandle on Saturday. Several days were very windy.

CROPS Corn picking is quite well advanced in the south Platte area, some counties reporting a range of 20 to 50% of the picking completed. Generally, it is too dry for mechanical pickers to work well as the stalks break and the husks do not come off as well. High winds have blown some of the corn off the stalks.

Corn picking is not as far advanced in the northern portions. Some farmers delayed picking until after the killing frost which occurred last weekend, while others have finished. Generally, corn is too dry for the best operation of mechanical pickers. Yields are generally up to expectations and quality very good. Practically all of the corn matured before the killing frost arrived.

Winter wheat needs moisture throughout the State. The surface soil especially is very dry. High winds have done some damage, especially to the later seedings. Summer fallow wheat and other wheat where the ground was plowed and seeded has made a splendid growth.

The late commercial potato harvest in western Nebraska has made good progress and should be nearly completed this week if the weather remains favorable. Yields are very good, but the quality is not so good. Sugar beet harvest is making good progress and mechanical harvesters are decreasing the amount of beet harvest labor needed. Grain sorghum harvest is nearing completion with good yields. Nearly all of the crop had matured before frost arrived. Harvesting of alfalfa seed continues and also the fourth cutting of alfalfa for hay.

LIVESTOCK Grain feed, hay and forage supplies range from ample to surplus in practically every county. The condition of pasture is lower due to lack of moisture. The range condition is also down. About 70% of the counties are reporting ample range and pasture and 30% of them short. Fifty percent of the counties are reporting a short supply of rainfall and surface moisture and only 20% ample. Nearly half of the counties are now reporting a short supply of subsoil moisture. Statisticians Logan and Bredemeyer started their annual fall survey of subsoil moisture conditions yesterday. *1400-10-18-48.*

Feeder cattle prices are lower, but many of the counties report that farmers are still hesitating to buy feeder cattle until the price becomes more stabilized. Grain and hay prices are lower, but feeder cattle prices are still at a high level. There was only a very slight increase in cattle feeding up to October 1 as compared with operations a year ago which were at a low level. There seems to be an increasing interest in the production of hogs since the support price of both hogs and corn gave rise to a very favorable hog-corn feeding ratio. Corn is now selling considerably below the support price. There has been a considerable tendency to rush finishing of hogs in anticipation of a lower price later. (Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture.)

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 1948.

Eastern Division	Central Division	Western Division
Grand Island 0	Burwell 0	Chadron .02
Lincoln 0	North Platte 0	Hayes Center 0
Norfolk 0	Valentine 0	Scottsbluff .13
Omaha 0		Sidney .08
Sioux City 0		

