

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

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Week Ending 9-15-56

WEATHER Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, with warm days and cool nights, except that a few nights were rather warm in the east. Humidity was rather low, and there was almost full sunshine. Light to locally moderate showers fell early in the week along the northern border of the State, but elsewhere there was no precipitation of consequence.

CROPS Weekly reports since September 1 generally substantiate the official September 1 estimate of corn which was slightly higher than the August 1 estimate. So far it appears that the light frost did not do much damage but some central areas had a killing frost. To date about 20% of irrigated corn is mature and 25% of the dry-land corn. An early frost could still do considerable damage.

Lack of subsoil moisture this year and two days of hot winds the latter part of July, are partly responsible for the short corn crop. July and August precipitation, while below normal, would have been sufficient to produce a fair crop had there been ample subsoil moisture without hot winds.

July 1955 had about 51% of average rainfall and August 1955, 48%. September 1955 rainfall was 31% above normal. Spring rainfall this year was below normal but June rainfall with an average of 3.41 inches, was only .37 inches below normal. July and August precipitation was not much below normal. For the year ending August 31, the western third of the state was only 11% below normal, the central third only 21% below and the eastern third of the state 27% below normal, with the state around 79% of normal. The limited rainfall and storage of subsoil moisture in the spring was largely responsible for the shortage of crops, especially corn.

About 44% of the winter wheat has been seeded. The percentages seeded by leading districts are as follows: Panhandle, 80%; Central 14%; East Central, 21%; Southwestern, 52%; South Central 32%; and Southeastern 19%. Western Nebraska seeded wheat at about the usual time but a larger percentage of the wheat than usual for this date has been seeded in eastern Nebraska. The substantial rain that occurred during the first week of the month in many of the counties south of the Platte River in the eastern two-thirds of the state prompted farmers to seed wheat earlier than usual. About 56% of the rye has been planted to date.

Irrigated grain sorghum is very promising. There was some improvement in dry-land grain sorghum that received moisture in early September but this improvement is offset largely by insufficient moisture in southwestern and south-central Nebraska. Dry-land sorghum is promising in the Panhandle but an early frost could damage the crop.

There was some improvement in alfalfa in counties receiving rainfall in early September but this is offset by lack of moisture in most of the counties. Irrigated alfalfa is promising.

Rains in early September stimulated the seeding of alfalfa and about 70% of the fall seeding has been completed as compared with 48% a week earlier. About 62% of the grasses have been seeded as compared with 35% a week ago.

There has been some improvement in the condition of pastures in counties receiving early September rainfall but the condition of pastures for the state as a whole is lower. Pasture and range are still good in northwestern Nebraska.

About 45% of the counties are reporting a shortage of grain feed, the balance an ample supply at present. About 60% of the counties are reporting a shortage of hay and forage and the balance reporting an ample supply. Range and pasture are reported short in 83% of the counties. All of the counties are reporting need for additional moisture and only 9% of the counties are reporting ample subsoil moisture.

