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Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
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National Weather Service

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

Release 4/29/74

Week Ending 4/29/74

WEATHER

Temperatures averaged 4 to 8 degrees above normal with the cooler period the first part of the week. Scattered showers and thundershowers the latter portion of the period produced up to 2.22 inches of precipitation while some portions of the State received no rainfall.

CROPS

Nebraska farmers and ranchers made good progress in fieldwork during the week. Nearly all the oats and barley acreage is sown and corn planting is in full swing. Rains and thunderstorms over the weekend will delay progress in some areas for a few days. The winter wheat crop continues to make good growth and development.

Winter wheat is generally in good condition and improved over last week with 81% of counties good, 11% excellent and 8% fair. Early fall seeded fields are reported making rapid growth. However, some late fall seedings showed little improvement. Some fields in western Nebraska are still being grazed.

Oats and barley seeding is virtually complete. Early sown fields are up and showing good growth. Corn planting is in full swing in most areas and slightly ahead of normal. Nearly 5% of the acreage has now been planted. Weekend rains may temporarily delay progress in some localities. Heavy hail was also received in some localities over the weekend.

Alfalfa and wild hay are generally in good condition. County agents report 86% of the alfalfa crop in good condition, 10% of counties excellent and 4% fair. Wild hay is 83% good, 9% excellent and 8% fair. Most areas reported wild hay as growing very slowly and in need of rain.

GENERAL

Nebraska farmers and ranchers made excellent fieldwork progress during the survey period (April 20-26). Six days were suitable for fieldwork. Farm work consisted mainly of seedbed preparation, applying herbicides, plowing, discing, seeding, applying fertilizer, repairing machinery and fences, etc.

County extension agents report fertilizer supplies as generally short with 94% of counties short and 6% adequate. Counties with short supplies have approximately 75% fertilizer available to meet current needs and demand. This is a 5% increase over two weeks ago. Fertilizer prices continue to be very high when compared with last year.

Soil moisture supplies are generally adequate throughout the State. Moisture received during the survey period (April 20-26) was mostly trace amounts. However, weekend rains added considerable moisture in many areas. Topsoil moisture supplies are 81% adequate and 19% short. Nearly the entire Northeast District had short supplies of topsoil moisture before this weekend. Subsoil moisture supplies are 96% adequate and 4% short.

LIVESTOCK

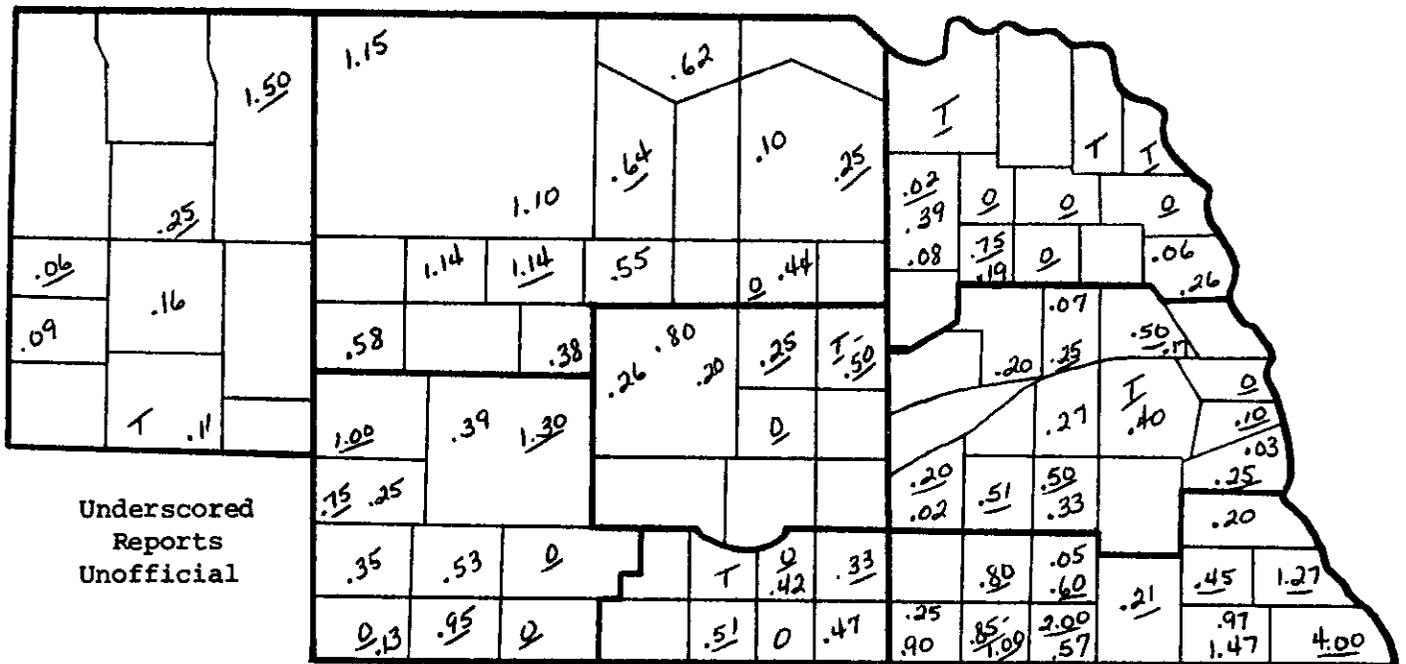
Range and pasture supplies are generally adequate, although the North Central and Northeast Districts have generally short feed supplies. Many areas needed a good rain to stimulate growth.

Livestock are in generally good condition. Cattle are moving to summer range and are being grazed in winter wheat fields in some areas. Ranchers have reported cases of grass tetany and some loss of cattle.

Precipitation, April 1 - April 26, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.10	.60	.20	.30	.40	.20	.20	.60
Total since April 1.....	1.40	2.00	1.50	1.60	2.20	1.00	2.20	1.80
Normal since April 1.....	1.61	1.81	2.00	1.83	2.08	1.64	1.87	2.11

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1974

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1/</u>
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	80	32	58	--	.04
Scottsbluff	84	29	58	+8	0
Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC Burwell	--	--	--	--	--
Valentine	82	30	58	+8	.04
NE Norfolk	82	33	59	+6	.52
Sioux City	84	33	60	+6	.23
CEN Grand Island	83	35	60	+6	T
EC Lincoln	86	32	60	+5	2.22
Omaha	85	34	60	+4	.11
SW Imperial	85	33	59	--	0
North Platte	85	33	59	+8	T

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

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