

8-12-74

Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
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Environmental Science Services Admn.
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Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

Release 8/12/74

Week Ending 8/12/74

WEATHER

Precipitation over most of the State was the greatest in several weeks. Many areas received 2 to 2½ inches of rainfall.

Temperatures were 5-10 degrees below normal the entire period. Frost occurred in the Brownlee area when the temperature dropped to 33 degrees.

CROPS

A drought-breaking rain over most of Nebraska arrived late but still brought relief to many Nebraska farmers and ranchers. This was Nebraska's first general rainfall for the entire State since early June. Further deterioration of dryland crops has been reduced and moisture will be helpful for most acreages of sorghum and soybeans. Dryland corn (even with more rain) will only make a small grain crop as pollination was extremely poor. Enough moisture was received to begin preparing ground for planting winter wheat in many areas.

Nearly six days were suitable for fieldwork during the survey week (August 3-9). Topsoil moisture supplies improved from last week but remain short in 74% of the counties. Subsoil moisture condition also improved but 93% of the counties reported short supplies.

Irrigated corn condition improved with all counties reporting condition being mostly good to fair with some fields in excellent condition. Virtually all the irrigated corn has silked but many counties are reporting poorer pollination than normal because of heat damage. Some pumps were shut off during last week's rain, but many producers continue to irrigate around the clock trying to meet sufficient water requirements of the crop. Gear heads and other repairs for systems remain in short supply.

Dryland corn condition remains in mostly poor to fair condition. About 80% of the crop has silked. Normally both irrigated and non-irrigated corn are completely silked. The most severe damage to dryland corn is the poor pollination resulting in many ears with only a few kernels on the cob. Many farmers are green

chopping acreages as feed when needed to supplement pasture feed for livestock. Richardson and Nuckolls Counties reported livestock losses due to high levels of nitrates in corn causing nitrate poisoning.

Sorghum condition improved substantially with 74% of the counties reporting conditions as good with poor in 26%. About 60% of the crop has headed statewide compared to 85% normal. The South Central District with 76% of the crop headed is near normal. Some late planted sorghum which is not heading is being windrowed and baled. Chinch bug and greenbug populations remain high in most fields.

Soybean condition is mostly good to poor. About 70% of the acreages have podded. Normal podding is 85%. Recent precipitation will help bean formation and development but setting of pods is reported as being poor due to extensive heat damage during the bloom stage.

Alfalfa condition remained relatively the same as last week with mostly poor to fair conditions. With recent prevailing drought conditions only about 50% of the third cutting will make a crop and be harvested.

Wild hay condition remains in mostly poor to fair condition. Mowed hay meadows are experiencing very little or no re-growth.

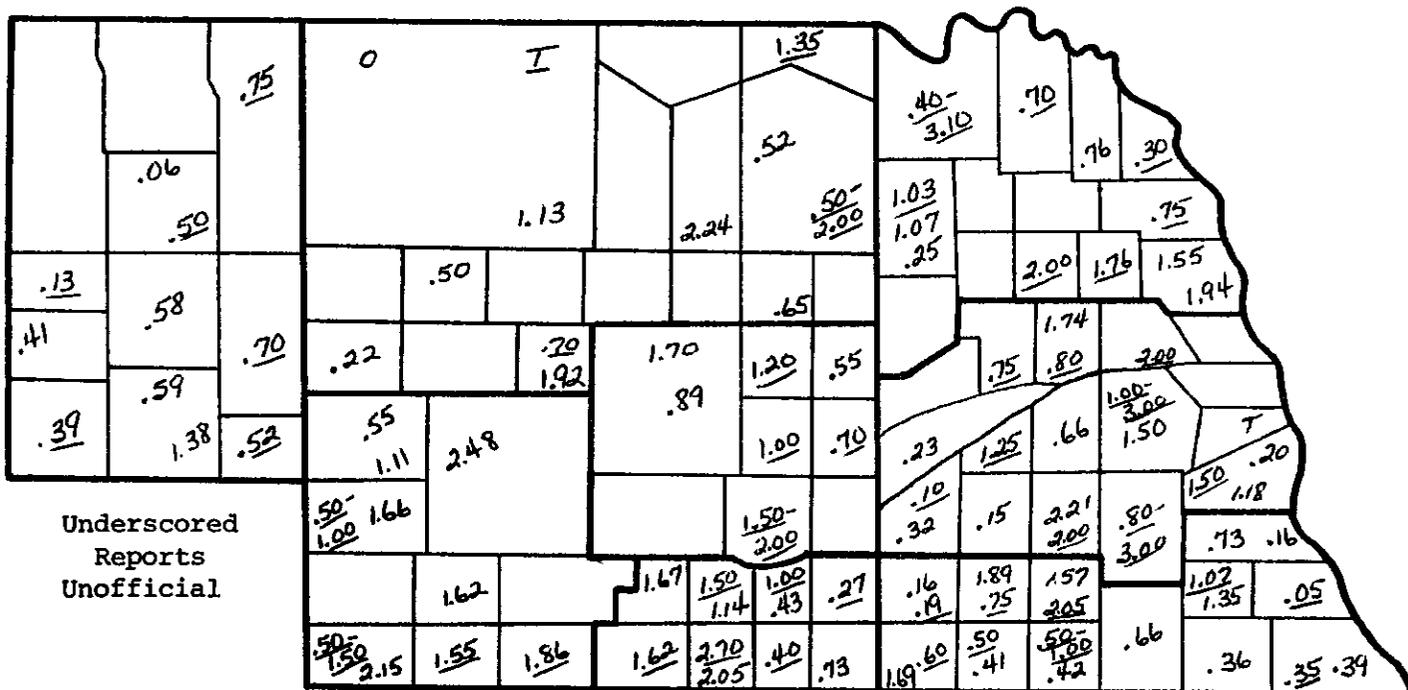
LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture feed supplies improved some during the week but 95% of the counties report short supplies. Rainfall should bring to life some of the dormant grasses. Supplemental feeding is continuing with many producers cutting green chop from dryland corn.

Livestock remain in mostly good to fair condition. Hogmen continue to market many piggy sows due to high grain cost and depressed feeder pig prices.

Cattlemen continue to cull many old cows with large numbers reported at local sale barns. Webster County reports abnormally severe infection of pink eye in many cattle. Flies have continually caused many problems statewide throughout the summer.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1974

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1/</u>
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	91	47	68	--	.57
Scottsbluff	89	48	67	-7	1.37
Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC Burwell	86	48	68	--	--
Valentine	88	45	68	-7	.19
NE Norfolk	83	49	67	-9	.55
Sioux City	84	56	70	-5	1.12
CEN Grand Island	88	49	67	-10	.14
EC Lincoln	85	48	69	-8	1.10
Omaha	86	48	66	-9	.51
SW Imperial	88	48	66	--	.59
North Platte	86	42	65	-10	.84

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

Precipitation, April 1 - August 9, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.70	.80	1.20	.80	1.00	1.40	1.20	.80
Total since April 1.....	6.60	8.30	13.00	11.20	10.90	10.80	10.60	9.90
Normal since April 1....	10.23	12.04	13.92	13.25	14.76	11.47	13.16	15.71

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