

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS



For Week Ending March 30, 1997

Issue 04-97

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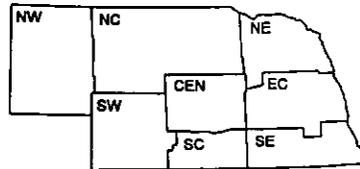
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National Agricultural Statistics Service
U S Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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WEATHER

The week was relatively mild with temperatures across the State averaging overall around five degrees above normals. Precipitation was generally light across the State ranging from a few hundredths to nearly four tenths of an inch.

GENERAL

Winter wheat reportedly came through the winter in better condition than last year, but moisture is needed to aid development, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Moisture supplies in the southwest and parts of the Panhandle were short. Additional moisture is also needed to aid germination of spring planted crops. Producer activities included oats seeding, spring tillage, stalk shredding, fertilizer applications, spring equipment preparation, and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition rated 6% poor, 38% fair, 53% good, and 3% excellent. Overall, reports indicated that the crop looks good, but rain was needed.

Oats seeding was 18% complete, ahead of last year's 10% and 14% average. Seeding was least advanced in the northeast part of the State due to wet field conditions. To date, 1% of the crop had emerged.

Sugar beets field preparations had begun in the Panhandle.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 3% poor, 28% fair, 67% good, and 2% excellent. Above normal temperatures and limited precipitation has provided excellent calving and lambing conditions and helped keep spring losses to a minimum. Calving was 64% complete.

WINTER REPORTING AS OF MARCH 30, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	P E R C E N T											
% Oats Sown	36	6	1	14	30	25	33	49	18	n/a	10	14
% Oats Emerged	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	2	1	n/a	0	n/a
WINTER REPORTING AS OF MARCH 30, 1997												
% Cows Calved	82	57	52	66	68	67	79	70	64	n/a	66	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MARCH 28, 1997												
Days Suitable	6.5	5.7	4.2	6.1	5.9	6.6	6.3	5.7	5.8	n/a	3.3	
Topsoil Moisture - Very Short	19	6	2	2	0	22	0	0	6	n/a	17	
- Short	32	47	18	35	28	51	34	21	34	n/a	53	
- Adequate	49	41	57	63	68	25	66	79	55	n/a	27	
- Surplus	0	6	23	0	4	2	0	0	5	n/a	3	
Subsoil Moisture - Very Short	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	15	
- Short	12	20	2	19	9	36	15	2	14	n/a	46	
- Adequate	88	55	83	78	89	60	81	98	77	n/a	35	
- Surplus	0	25	15	2	2	4	4	0	9	n/a	4	

n/a = not available

NOTE: National and Nebraska releases are now available on Internet @ <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

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PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 28, 1997

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	61	.97	.69	.35	78	.54	.61	.77
Total since April 1	15.47	18.49	21.13	22.20	25.83	20.20	28.97	23.45
Normal since April 1	13.11	16.59	18.98	18.44	21.09	15.20	18.55	21.80
Total as % of normal	118%	111%	111%	120%	122%	133%	156%	108%

**TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR
WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1997**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	79	22	47	---	.06
Scottsbluff	75	16	43	+4	.02
Sidney	73	20	42	---	.01
NC Valentine	81	20	43	+5	T
NE Norfolk	80	26	47	+7	.01
Sioux City	79	26	45	+5	.05
CEN Grand Island	79	23	47	+5	.17
Ord	79	26	46	---	T
EC Lincoln	79	26	48	+2	.02
Omaha	77	28	48	+5	.18
SW Imperial	---	---	---	---	---
North Platte	76	20	43	+3	.04