NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

NASS NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For Week Ending July 20, 1997

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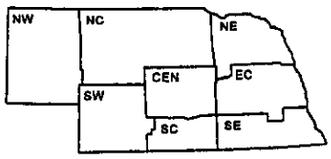
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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and Natural Resources--UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures for the week varied from one degree below normals in the Panhandle to four degrees above normals in the east central. Precipitation was light across the State with averages ranging from a trace to two tenths of an inch.

GENERAL

Hot, dry conditions prevailed across the State last week, resulting in rapid wheat harvest progress, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvest was virtually complete in south central and southeastern counties while the Panhandle crop was 25% cut. Dryland crops were under stress last week with many counties reporting short soil moisture supplies. Grasshopper and corn borer activity was noted over much of the State. Producers were busy irrigating crops, cultivating soybeans, haying, spraying herbicides, and doing routine chores.

CROPS

Winter wheat harvest was 64% complete as of Sunday, ahead of 48% last year and the average of 52%. The standing crop ripened at a rapid pace and was ahead of average. Clear weather conditions allowed harvest to move quickly.

Corn condition rated 3% poor, 21% fair, 54% good, and 22% excellent. Irrigated corn rated 80% good to excellent, while dryland corn rated 66% good to excellent, both near year ago levels. Corn development moved ahead at a rapid pace due to the hot, humid conditions. As of Sunday, 27% of the crop had silked, behind 32% last year and 33% average and compared to 2% last week. Hot temperatures combined with short moisture supplies in many areas stressed the dryland crop last week. Some producers treated fields for corn borer.

CROPS (Cont.)

Soybean condition rated 3% poor, 22% fair, 60% good, and 15% excellent. Producers were busy with chemical and mechanical weed control last week. Blooming had reached 52% as of Sunday, considerably ahead of last year's 33% and 37% average.

Sorghum condition rated 5% poor, 31% fair, 53% good, and 11% excellent. The crop was just beginning to head with less than 1% of the acreage having reached that stage.

Oats condition rated 6% poor, 30% fair, 53% good, and 11% excellent. Harvest for grain progressed to 36%, ahead of 28% last year and 29% for the average. Oat harvest for silage and hay continued active.

Dry bean condition rated 5% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, and 7% excellent. Blooming progressed to 40% as of Sunday, compared with 34% last year. Pod set had begun on 2% of the acreage, same as last year. Producers were busy cultivating last week.

Alfalfa condition rated 4% very poor, 17% poor, 33% fair, 37% good and 9% excellent. Second cutting activities were 62% complete. This compared with 66% last year and 58% average. Potato leaf hoppers continued to cause concerns in numerous fields. Wild hay condition rated 2% very poor, 15% poor, 37% fair, 39% good, and 7% excellent. Native grass haying continued active.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 4% very poor, 17% poor, 35% fair, 38% good, and 6% excellent. Pastures were experiencing slow regrowth due to the hot, dry conditions. Moisture would be greatly welcomed.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF JULY 20, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Silked	6	2	13	12	49	15	34	53	27	2	32	33
% Wheat Ripe	70	66	70	100	93	99	100	100	89	55	84	86
% Wheat Harvested	25	29	22	59	53	79	99	96	64	26	48	52
% Soybeans Blooming	n/a	28	26	29	56	45	44	80	52	18	33	37
% Oats Harvested	25	11	44	69	48	29	40	26	36	8	28	29
% Dry Beans Blooming	57	81	3	0	n/a	25	n/a	n/a	40	28	34	n/a
% Dry Beans Podded	0	50	0	0	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	2	n/a
% Alfalfa Second Cutting	16	44	39	70	66	85	99	85	62	23	66	58
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF JULY 18, 1997												
Days suitable	6.2	6.1	5 8	7 0	6.5	6 3	7.0	7.0	6 4	5.7	5 8	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	3	1	1	23	4	14	50	15	11	6	9	
(Percent) - Short	28	32	35	52	38	50	46	43	39	32	37	
- Adequate	69	66	64	25	58	36	4	42	50	59	50	
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	0	0	0	13	1	7	25	5	4	2	3	
(Percent) - Short	12	22	24	51	31	43	57	51	35	24	34	
- Adequate	88	67	75	35	68	50	18	44	58	73	60	
- Surplus	0	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	

n/a = not available

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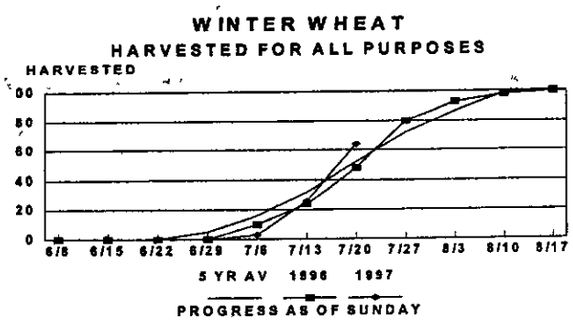
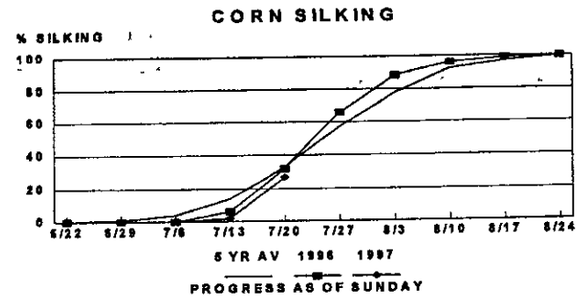
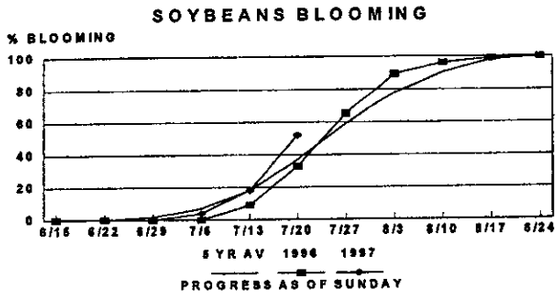
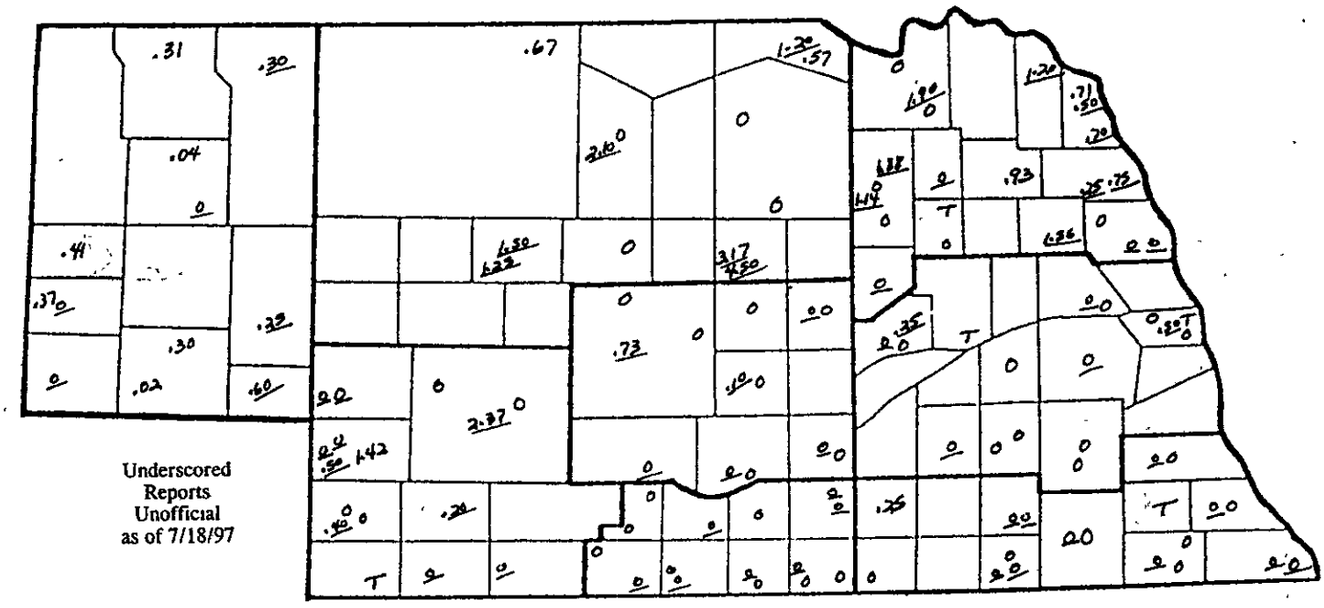






PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1997



Underscored Reports Unofficial as of 7/18/97

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - JULY 19, 1997

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	24	.21	.16	.01	01	.24	.01	.03
Total since April 1	10.93	11.57	11.74	8.58	11.44	9.76	17.78	12.47
Normal since April 1	9 29	10.93	12 38	12.04	13.14	10 39	11.84	13.19
Total as % of normal	118%	106%	95%	71%	87%	94%	150%	95%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1997

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	105	48	75	---	.31	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	102	49	74	-1	41	1167	1330	1311
	Sidney	103	51	77	---	02	1102	1283	1301
NC	Valentine	101	56	78	+3	67	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	1103	1282	1419
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	1154	1359	1532
NE	Norfolk	93	58	78	+2	T	---	---	---
	Sioux City	91	59	78	+2	.71	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	1176	1383	1567
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	1170	1381	1551
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	1260	1471	1631
CEN	Grand Island	96	58	79	+2	0	1251	1453	1604
	Ord	96	59	79	---	0	1204	1405	1580
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	1283	1483	1590
EC	Lincoln	95	59	80	+1	0	1345	1570	1751
	Omaha	94	61	80	+4	T	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	1259	1461	1622
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	1323	1533	1705
SW	Imperial	102	60	78	---	0	---	---	---
	North Platte	98	54	76	+2	0	1233	1413	1460
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	1334	1529	1510
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	1260	1451	1578
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	1364	1574	1587
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	1309	1516	1749
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	1282	1479	1613

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.