

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS



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For Week Ending August 20, 2000

Issue: 25-2000

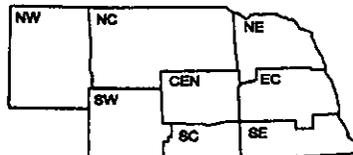
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National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
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WEATHER

Temperatures averaged two to four degrees above normals in the west but were near normals in the east. Precipitation was scattered across the State and ranged from traces to nearly two inches in the Southeast.

GENERAL

Dryland crops, including grasses and pastures, continued to suffer from drought stress last week, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Rainfall last week and over the weekend may not help many dryland crops, but should offer some benefit to fields intended for fall seeded wheat. Crop producers continued to use irrigation systems to maximize grain fill. Reports indicated that some irrigators were not able to provide enough water to meet crop demands. Some dryland producers were considering alternative harvest plans to salvage feed value from drought damaged crops. Producer activities included moving grain to market, preparing for fall harvest, and livestock care.

CROPS

Corn condition declined last week and rated 15% very poor, 14% poor, 28% fair, 33% good, and 10% excellent. Irrigated corn condition declined to 61% good to excellent while dryland corn declined to 17% good to excellent. Reports indicated that 87% of the crop was in or beyond the dough stage, this compared with 80% last year and 65% average. About 52% had dented, last year at this time 23% had dented while the average was 16%. Six percent had matured, none had reached

CROPS Cont.

this stage at this time last year or for the five year average. Some producers were considering harvesting grain acres for hay or silage, or allowing livestock to graze off the fields due to drought conditions.

Soybean condition declined and rated 21% very poor, 25% poor, 30% fair, 19% good, and 5% excellent. By week's end, 96% had set pods, compared to 88% last year and 85% average. About 20% of the crop had turned color by week's end, over two and a half weeks ahead of average. Nine percent had dropped their leaves, also well ahead of average. Alternative harvest plans were being considered in drought stressed areas.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 20% very poor, 24% poor, 36% fair, 17% good, and 3% excellent. The crop was 92% headed as of Sunday, ahead of 83% last year and 84% average. Thirty percent of the crop had colored, well ahead of last year at 9% and average at 8%.

Alfalfa third cutting progressed to 74% harvested, this compared to 57% last year and 47% average. Producers who will be able to take four cuttings this summer have begun to do so. Condition of the crop declined and rated 30% very poor, 31% poor, 27% fair, 11% good, and 1% excellent. **Wild hay** harvest continued.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition declined and rated 48% very poor, 34% poor, 14% fair, and 4% good. Producers continued to move cattle around or off pastures, provide supplemental hay and/or protein, or move cattle to market.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF AUGUST 20, 2000	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS									STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
	PERCENT												
% Corn Dough	37	75	84	89	96	83	90	97	87	77	80	65	
% Corn Dent	10	20	40	44	73	35	62	68	52	30	23	16	
% Corn Mature	n/a	0	6	n/a	5	0	10	13	6	n/a	0	0	
% Soybeans Setting Pods	n/a	89	96	94	99	85	99	95	96	88	88	85	
% Soybeans Turning Color	n/a	1	18	14	31	0	17	15	20	n/a	1	1	
% Soybeans Dropping Leaves	n/a	0	4	n/a	19	0	7	4	9	n/a	0	0	
% Sorghum Headed	n/a	90	85	98	100	92	90	92	92	86	83	84	
% Alfalfa Thurd Cutting	62	60	71	70	93	66	99	97	74	62	57	47	
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF AUGUST 18, 2000													
Days Suitable	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.6	7.0	5.4		
Topsoil Moisture	- Very short	56	43	70	67	46	66	63	49	57	62	5	
	- Short	24	34	29	25	30	15	32	24	27	29	22	
	- Adequate	20	23	1	8	24	19	5	27	16	9	71	
	- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Subsoil Moisture-	- Very Short	45	48	74	74	77	73	60	76	66	66	3	
	- Short	36	48	26	25	17	25	34	24	29	29	23	
	- Adequate	19	4	0	1	6	2	6	0	5	5	73	
	- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

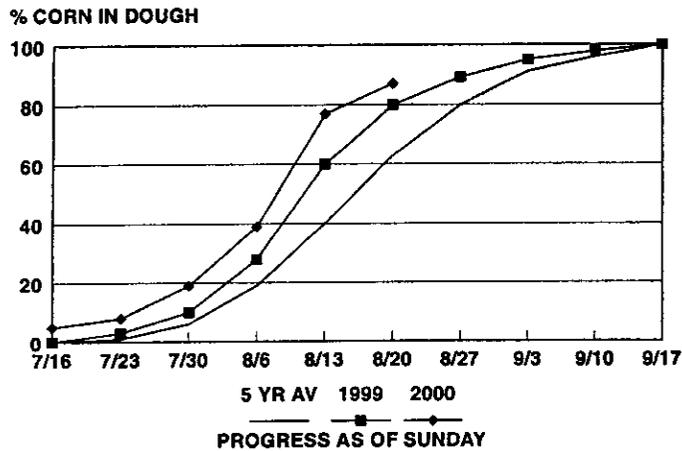
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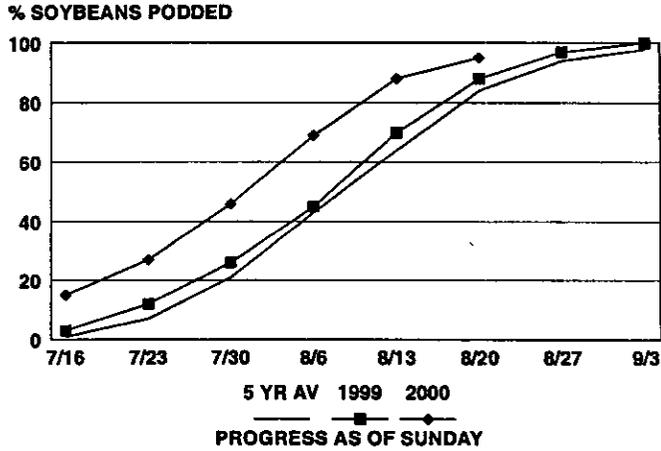
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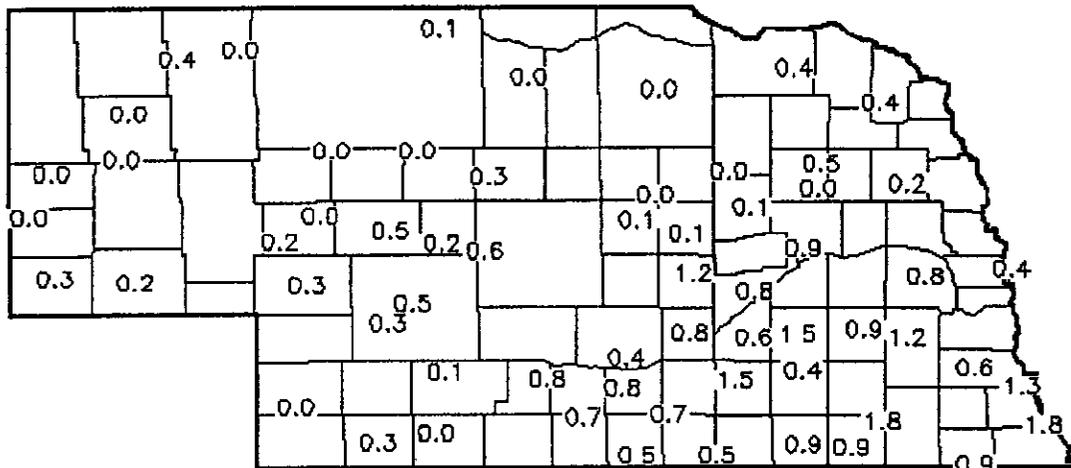
CORN DOUGH



SOYBEANS PODDED



PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20, 2000



Source: High Plains Climate Center

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - AUGUST 20, 2000

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.13	.22	.58	.56	.96	.26	.71	1.49
Total since April 1	10.89	11.93	14.98	14.90	15.53	6.67	13.65	14.50
Normal since April 1	11.26	13.76	15.43	15.11	16.55	12.92	15.06	16.91
Total as % of normal	97%	87%	97%	99%	94%	52%	91%	86%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2000

Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
	Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	98	44	75	---	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	100	50	75	+	150	2144	1990
	Sidney	101	54	75	---	153	2110	2041
NC	Valentine	101	45	73	0	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	156	2123	2148
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	143	2219	2285
NE	Norfolk	99	51	74	+1	.65	---	---
	Sioux City	93	53	73	0	.18	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	131	2239
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	135	2260
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	140	2330
CEN	Grand Island	104	52	76	+2	.75	156	2434
	Ord	103	52	77	---	16	151	2352
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	155	2388
EC	Lincoln	104	57	77	+1	1.22	165	2603
	Omaha	91	58	73	-1	1.42	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	149	2406
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	149	2429
SW	Imperial	103	58	78	---	11	---	---
	North Platte	101	56	76	+4	31	157	2327
	Curtis	---	---	---	---	---	164	2376
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	163	2386
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	179	2696
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	162	2552
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	154	2395

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. N/A = not available.