

Issue NE-CW3903, released September 29, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov). Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending September 28, 2003, fall harvest moved ahead but at a slower than normal pace while the fall seeding of wheat continued ahead of normal, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Rainfalls from previous weeks were beneficial for some pastures and wheat germination.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures ranged from normals to 8 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was scattered and very light over most of the state.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending September 28, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	30	24	33	23
Short	36	37	39	33
Adequate	33	38	28	43
Surplus	1	1	0	1
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	44	41	61	34
Short	41	42	29	29
Adequate	15	17	10	37
Surplus	0	0	0	0
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.6	5.8	6.4	6.1

**Field Crops Report:** Corn condition rated 14 percent very poor, 14 poor, 22 fair, 33 good, and 17 excellent, above last year but below average. Irrigated fields rated 76 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 14. This compares to 54 and 5, respectively, a year ago. Seventy-three percent of the acreage was mature, behind last year at 82 and average at 88. Harvest reached 11 percent picked to date, about a week behind last year at 16 and average at 21.

Soybean condition rated 15 percent very poor, 24 poor, 34 fair, 20 good, and 7 excellent, above last year but below

average. Seventy-eight percent of the crop had dropped leaves, behind 83 last year and 87 average. Harvest progressed to 12 percent complete, a few days behind last year at 15 and average at 17.

Sorghum condition rated 23 percent very poor, 33 poor, 34 fair, 10 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Heads had turned color on 94 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 95 and average at 98. The crop was mature on 51 percent of the acreage, behind 73 last year and 78 average. Harvest was underway with 7 percent combined, nearly 2 weeks behind last year at 23 and average at 20.

Dry bean harvest progressed to 67 percent complete, ahead of 57 last year but behind 70 average.

Wheat planting progressed to 82 percent sown, ahead of last year at 79 and average at 78. Fifty percent had emerged, the same as last year but ahead of average at 43.

Proso millet harvest advanced to 76 percent complete, ahead of 64 last year.

Alfalfa condition rated 17 percent very poor, 20 poor, 34 fair, 25 good, and 4 excellent, above last year but below average. Fourth cutting activities continued where growth permitted with 78 percent harvested, ahead of both last year at 73 and average at 65.

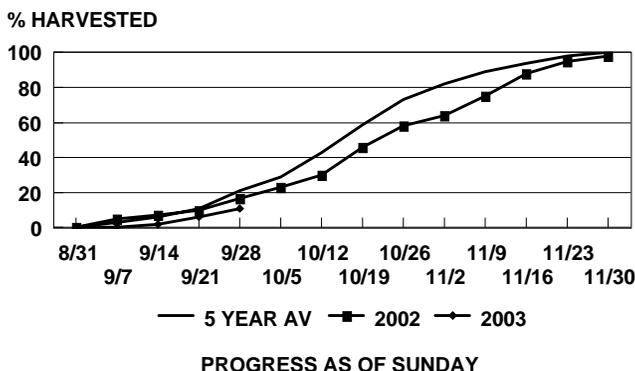
**Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending  
September 28, 2003**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Mature	73	50	82	88
Corn Harvested	11	6	16	21
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	78	54	83	87
Soybeans Harvested	12	3	15	17
Sorghum Coloring	94	88	95	98
Sorghum Mature	51	30	73	78
Sorghum Harvested	7	2	23	20
Wheat Planted	82	65	79	78
Wheat Emerged	50	26	50	43
Alfalfa 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	78	51	73	65

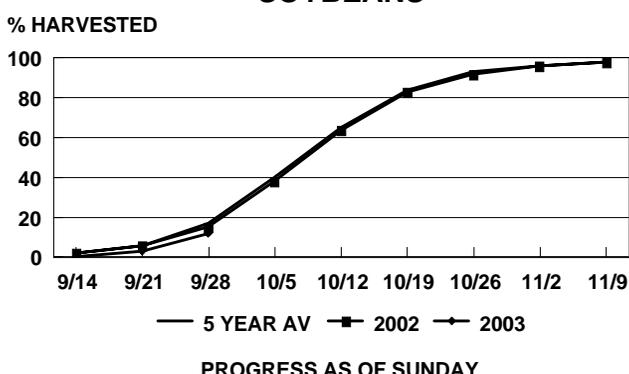
**Crop Condition: Nebraska,  
Week Ending September 28, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	14	14	22	33	17
Soybean	15	24	34	20	7
Sorghum	23	33	34	10	0
Alfalfa	17	20	34	25	4

**CORN**



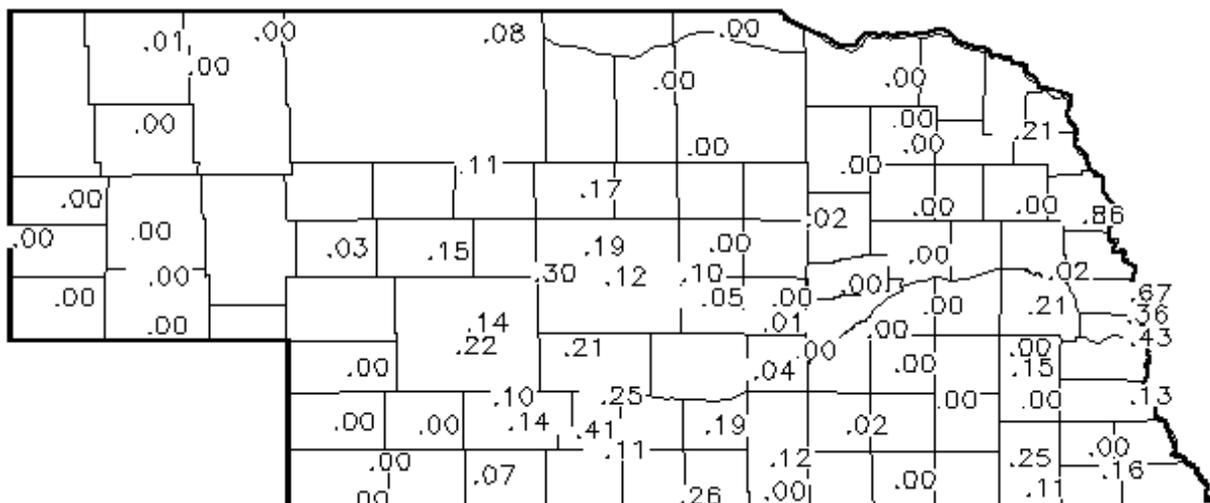
**SOYBEANS**



**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition rated 31 percent very poor, 28 poor, 31 fair, 10 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Producers have begun to move cattle to stalk fields as they become available. Supplemental feeding is still occurring.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)*

**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending September 28, 2003**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 28, 2003**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.00	.04	.09	.08	.18	.05	.18	.06
Total since April 1	12.03	13.78	20.52	16.07	19.21	14.96	15.96	21.77
Normal since April 1	12.94	16.49	19.17	18.19	20.88	15.50	18.23	21.91
Total as % of normal	92%	84%	107%	88%	92%	95%	87%	100%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, September 28, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
	High	Low					
NW Alliance	83	35	55	-1	73	2446	2553
Scottsbluff	83	33	54	-2	76	2672	2549
Sidney	87	35	57	0	82	2546	2609
NC Ainsworth	89	32	55	-3	67	2693	2781
Arthur	86	34	56	-2	77	2553	2739
O'Neill	88	27	54	-5	65	2673	2891
NE Concord	79	34	53	-7	55	2653	2940
Elgin	84	34	54	-5	61	2704	2953
West Point	80	35	53	-8	60	2793	3116
C Grand Island	85	34	56	-4	75	2851	2996
Lexington	92	36	59	-1	82	2991	2948
Ord	90	31	55	-5	73	2763	2971
EC Lincoln	82	37	57	-5	72	3095	3292
Central City	83	32	55	-5	72	2854	3037
Mead	83	31	55	-7	75	2903	3237
SW Champion	93	32	58	0	91	2721	2799
North Platte	91	30	56	-2	86	2785	2823
Curtis	94	31	59	0	88	2945	2863
SC Arapahoe	87	30	54	-4	82	2517	2729
Minden	87	33	58	-2	80	2918	2958
Red Cloud	84	34	58	-2	79	3017	3031
SE Beatrice	82	35	57	-5	77	3005	3292
Clay Center	82	34	56	-5	72	2817	3023
Nemaha	83	40	59	-4	80	3222	3319

Source: High Plains Climate Center.