

Issue NE-CW4204, released October 18, 2004, 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. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending October 17, 2004, drier conditions allowed harvest to continue at a near normal pace for soybeans while corn and grain sorghum harvest lagged behind normal, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. In some areas, corn harvest has been slowed due to high grain moisture content and the backlog at drying facilities. Producer activities also included finishing fall wheat seeding and harvesting alfalfa.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week ranged from 1 degree to 8 degrees below normals. Precipitation was mostly limited to the Panhandle and southwest, although generally light.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending October 17, 2004**

| | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Topsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 11 | 13 | 32 | 28 |
| Short | 29 | 22 | 34 | 33 |
| Adequate | 59 | 64 | 34 | 39 |
| Surplus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Subsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 31 | 35 | 48 | 43 |
| Short | 35 | 28 | 39 | 30 |
| Adequate | 34 | 36 | 13 | 27 |
| Surplus | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Days Suitable | 5.5 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 6.3 |

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 2 percent very poor, 5 poor, 17 fair, 48 good, and 28 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 82 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 65. This compares to 77 and 15, respectively, a year ago. Ninety-one percent of the fields were considered mature, behind last year at 96 and average at 98. Harvest was 31 percent complete, a few days behind last year at 39 and a week and a half behind average at 50.

Soybean harvest was 80 percent complete, near last year at 81 and average at 79.

Sorghum condition rated 3 percent very poor, 9 poor, 42 fair, 38 good, and 8 excellent, above last year and average. Eighty-nine percent of the acreage was mature, behind last year at 97 and average at 96. Harvest was 30 percent complete, a week behind last year at 45 and a week and a half behind average at 52.

Dry bean harvest was 68 percent harvested, well behind last year at 97 and average at 96.

Proso millet harvest progressed to 69 percent complete, behind last year at 95.

Wheat seeding moved ahead to 96 percent planted, behind last year and average at 98. Eighty-five percent had emerged, behind last year at 88 and average at 87.

Alfalfa conditions rated 14 percent very poor, 17 poor, 29 fair, 34 good, and 6 excellent, above last year and average. Fourth cutting activities were 89 percent harvested, behind last year at 96 and average at 94.

**Crop Progress:
Nebraska, Week Ending October 17, 2004**

| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Alfalfa 4 th Cutting | 89 | 78 | 96 | 94 |
| Corn Mature | 91 | 84 | 96 | 98 |
| Corn Harvested | 31 | 19 | 39 | 50 |
| Sorghum Mature | 89 | 76 | 97 | 96 |
| Sorghum Harvested | 30 | 14 | 45 | 52 |
| Soybeans Harvested | 80 | 63 | 81 | 79 |
| Wheat Seeded | 96 | 91 | 98 | 98 |
| Wheat Emerged | 85 | 71 | 88 | 87 |

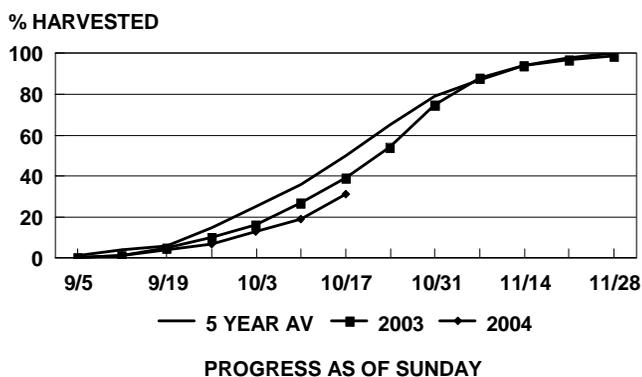
**Crop Condition:
Nebraska, Week Ending October 17, 2004**

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | 14 | 17 | 29 | 34 | 6 |
| Corn | 2 | 5 | 17 | 48 | 28 |
| Sorghum | 3 | 9 | 42 | 38 | 8 |

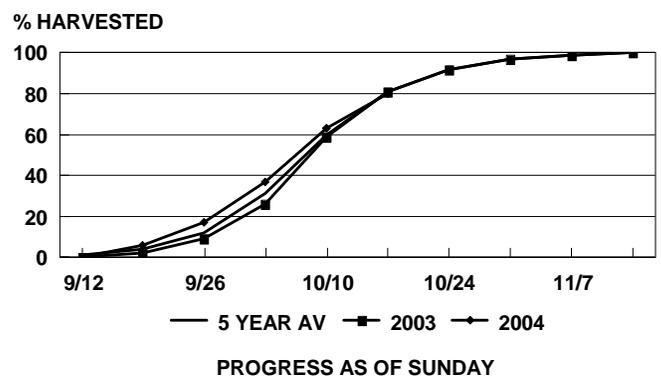
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 18 percent very poor, 26 poor, 31 fair, 24 good, and 1 excellent, above a year ago and average. Cattle were being moved to stalk fields as they became available.

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. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm>.

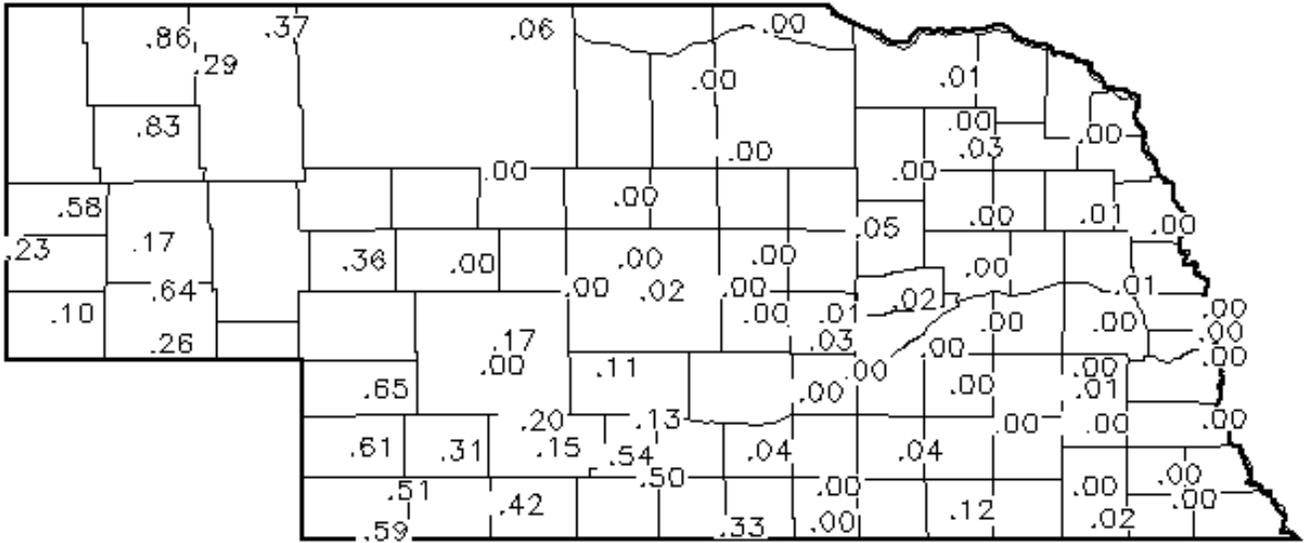
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending October 17, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - October 17, 2004

| Item | NW | NC | NE | CEN | EC | SW | SC | SE |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total past week 1 | .48 | .01 | .00 | .01 | .00 | .46 | .29 | .02 |
| Total since April 1 | 14.56 | 18.23 | 20.76 | 19.35 | 18.08 | 19.94 | 19.61 | 19.36 |
| Normal since April 1 | 13.53 | 17.37 | 20.34 | 19.13 | 22.32 | 16.21 | 18.94 | 23.43 |
| Total as % of normal | 107% | 105% | 102% | 100% | 80% | 123% | 103% | 82% |

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

**Temperature, By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, October 17, 2004**

| Station | Temperature | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----|---------|-----------|----|
| | Extremes | | Average | Departure | |
| | High | Low | | | |
| NW | Alliance | 72 | 28 | 47 | -2 |
| | Scottsbluff | 74 | 31 | 48 | -1 |
| | Sidney | 73 | 31 | 47 | -3 |
| NC | Ainsworth | 72 | 26 | 46 | -6 |
| | Arthur | 73 | 27 | 47 | -4 |
| | O'Neill | 68 | 24 | 46 | -7 |
| NE | Concord | 64 | 25 | 45 | -8 |
| | Elgin | 67 | 26 | 46 | -6 |
| | West Point | 68 | 27 | 47 | -7 |
| C | Grand Island | 69 | 27 | 47 | -6 |
| | Lexington | 66 | 27 | 48 | -4 |
| | Ord | 67 | 25 | 46 | -6 |
| EC | Lincoln | 71 | 33 | 50 | -5 |
| | Central City | 70 | 25 | 47 | -6 |
| | Mead | 70 | 30 | 49 | -6 |
| SW | Champion | 74 | 28 | 49 | -3 |
| | North Platte | 73 | 25 | 48 | -3 |
| | Curtis | 71 | 26 | 49 | -3 |
| SC | Smithfield | 67 | 26 | 47 | -5 |
| | Minden | 67 | 27 | 48 | -5 |
| | Red Cloud | 69 | 30 | 49 | -4 |
| SE | Beatrice | 71 | 29 | 49 | -5 |
| | Clay Center | 68 | 28 | 48 | -5 |
| | Nemaha | 69 | 32 | 51 | -4 |

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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