

Issue NE-CW1705, released April 25, 2005, 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, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 24, 2005, precipitation across the state kept most producers out of the fields, only allowing farmers in south central counties to make significant planting progress, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies continued above average and a year ago levels. Producer activities were limited due to rain throughout much of the state.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged from 4 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above. Precipitation throughout much of the state increased soil moisture. The heaviest amounts of 2 to 3 inches fell on the eastern one-third and north central portions of the state. Soil temperatures remained at or above 50 degrees throughout the state allowing for corn germination.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending April 24, 2005**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	1	0	10	13
Short	7	18	32	26
Adequate	78	81	57	60
Surplus	14	1	1	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	11	13	30	27
Short	27	32	41	40
Adequate	61	55	28	33
Surplus	1	0	1	0
Days Suitable	2.4	3.6	4.8	4.7

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 29 fair, 49 good, and 18 excellent. Fields were 41 percent jointed, ahead of last year at 30 percent and average of 21.

Corn planting was underway, with 9 percent planted behind last year at 20 and average of 14.

Oats planted increased to 91 percent, which continues ahead of last year at 87 and average of 83. Fifty-seven percent had emerged, ahead of 45 last year and average of 46.

Sugar beet planting advanced in the west with 42 percent completed, behind last year at 60.

Alfalfa conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 16 fair, 54 good, and 25 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 24, 2005

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	9	5	20	14
Oats Planted	91	85	87	83
Oats Emerged	57	33	45	46
Wheat Jointed	41	19	30	21

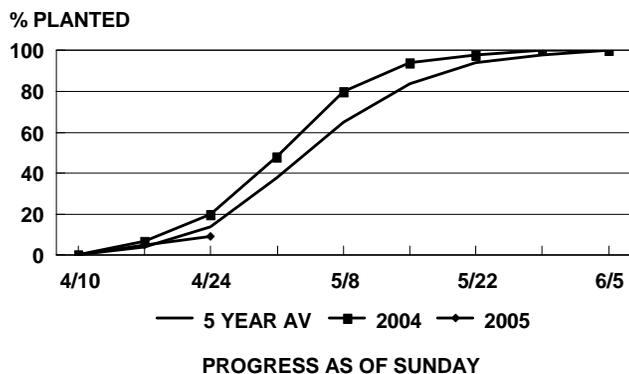
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 24, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	1	4	16	54	25
Wheat	1	3	29	49	18

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 1 percent very poor, 10 poor, 34 fair, 47 good, and 8 excellent. Cattle and calf condition rated 1 percent poor, 9 fair, 62 good, and 28 excellent. Spring calving was 93 percent complete with calf losses rated average to below average.

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/2005.htm>.

CORN



WHEAT

