



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service
Nebraska Field Office

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending September 11, 2005, warmer than normal temperatures and high winds reduced soil moisture levels and pushed crop maturity, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Accelerated crop maturity led producers across much of the state to stop irrigating crops. Other producer activities included chopping corn silage, beginning corn harvest, marketing old crops, and preparing for soybean and sorghum harvests.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged near 10 degrees above normal with highs reaching the low-to-mid nineties. Scattered rainfall totals of 1 inch or more were recorded across portions of southern Nebraska, while much of the northern half received little or no moisture. Precipitation since April 1 continued at or above normal for five of the eight districts but decreased along with soil moisture levels due to the lack of widespread rainfall.

Wheat seeded was at 21 percent, behind 25 last year but ahead of average at 20. Four percent of the crop had emerged, in line with last year and the average.

Dry Bean conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 8 poor, 23 fair, 54 good, and 13 excellent. Eighty-three percent had turned color, ahead of last year at 51 and the average at 73. Thirty-nine percent of the dry bean crop had begun dropping leaves, ahead of 15 last year but behind 46 for the average. Thirteen percent had been harvested, ahead of 6 last year but behind the average at 21.

Proso millet harvest continued at 33 percent, ahead of last year at 15 and the average at 30.

Alfalfa conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 17 poor, 38 fair, 33 good, and 8 excellent. Third cutting was 98 percent complete, ahead of last year at 91 and the average at 95. Fourth cutting was 44 percent harvested, ahead of 18 last year and 27 for the average.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending September 11, 2005

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	12	14	28	38
Short	42	35	40	32
Adequate	45	50	32	29
Surplus	1	1	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	20	23	42	49
Short	37	32	35	33
Adequate	43	45	23	18
Surplus	0	0	0	0
Days Suitable	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.1

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending September 11, 2005

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	98	95	91	95
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	44	21	18	27
Corn Dented	94	84	76	88
Corn Mature	24	7	10	31
Corn Harvested	2	0	1	4
Proso Millet Harvested	33	14	15	30
Sorghum Coloring	90	74	63	74
Sorghum Mature	6	1	5	20
Soybeans Coloring	79	40	60	66
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	25	5	19	26
Wheat Seeded	21	4	25	20
Wheat Emerged	4	0	4	4

Field Crops Report: Corn conditions rated 5 percent very poor, 10 poor, 22 fair, 43 good, and 20 excellent. Irrigated fields rated 83 percent good or excellent while dryland fields rated 33. Ninety-four percent of the crop had dented, ahead of 76 last year and 88 for the average. Twenty-four percent of the crop had reached maturity, ahead of 10 last year but behind 31 for the average. Corn harvest, at 2 percent, had begun in parts of the state, ahead of 1 last year but behind the average at 4.

Soybean coloring had progressed to 79 percent, ahead of 60 last year and 66 for the average. Twenty-five percent of the crop had begun dropping leaves, ahead of 19 last year and near 26 for the average. Conditions rated 5 percent very poor, 12 poor, 30 fair, 40 good, and 13 excellent. This is in line with last year but better than average.

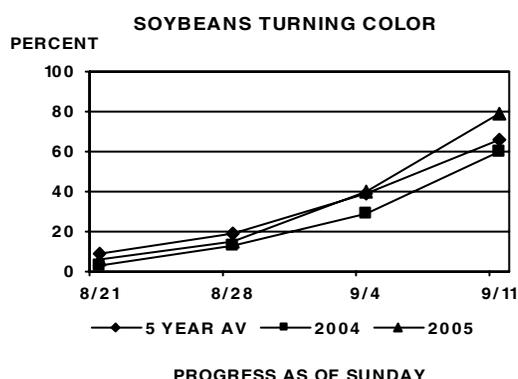
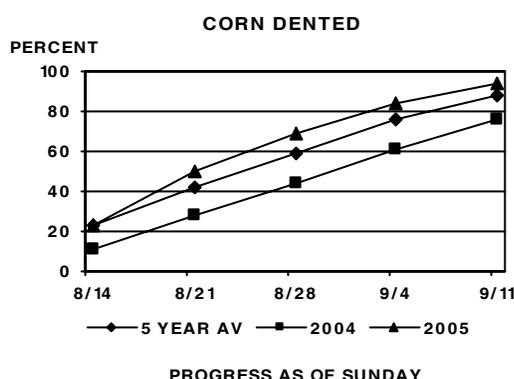
Sorghum conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 11 poor, 28 fair, 47 good, and 10 excellent, better than last year and average. Sorghum coloring was at 90 percent, well ahead of last year at 63 and average at 74. Six percent of the crop had reached maturity, just ahead of 5 last year but behind 20 for the average.

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending September 11, 2005

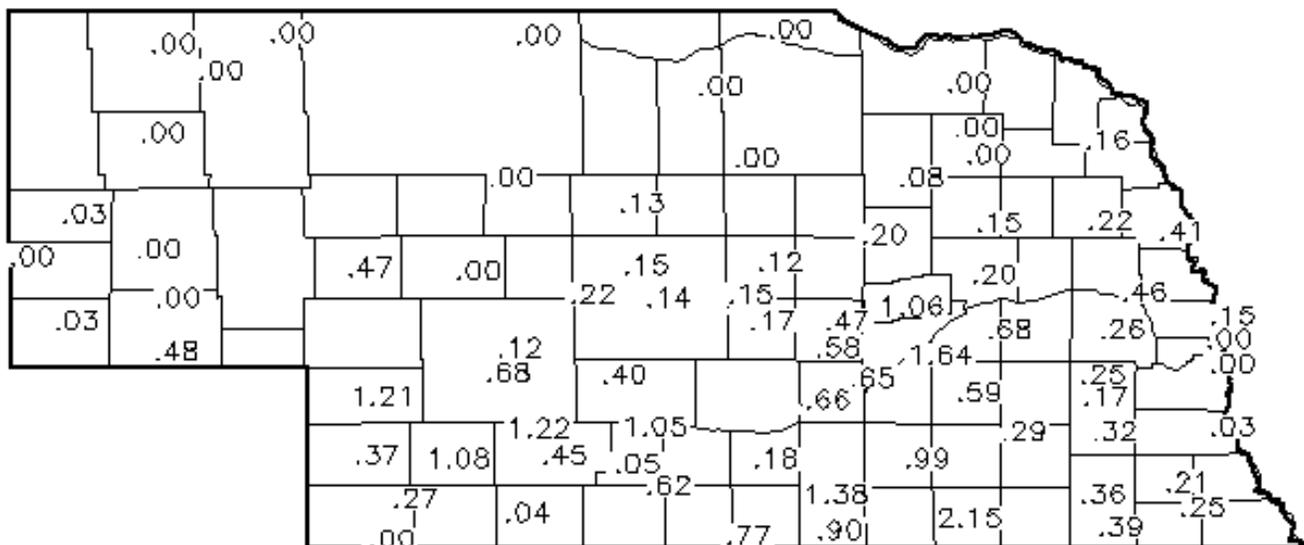
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	4	17	38	33	8
Corn	5	10	22	43	20
Dry Beans	2	8	23	54	13
Sorghum	4	11	28	47	10
Soybeans	5	12	30	40	13

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 8 percent very poor, 18 poor, 37 fair, 34 good, and 3 excellent. Conditions continue to be better than last year and average.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional 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>



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. September 11, 2005



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – September 11, 2005

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.04	.00	.11	.35	.51	.53	.70	.62
Total since April 1	15.67	19.63	19.28	19.02	17.60	15.04	16.27	19.43
Normal since April 1	12.25	15.35	17.68	16.81	19.01	14.61	16.64	19.84
Total as % of normal	129%	128%	109%	113%	92%	103%	98%	98%

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, September 11, 2005

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	95	47	71	+8	134	2186	2377
	Scottsbluff	95	49	72	+9	140	2334	2371
	Sidney	93	50	71	+8	136	2214	2448
NC	Ainsworth	91	55	76	+10	169	2551	2705
	Arthur	91	56	72	+7	148	2344	2610
	O'Neill	94	62	78	+12	179	2625	2749
NE	Concord	92	61	76	+9	170	2703	2855
	Elgin	90	59	75	+9	170	2675	2804
	West Point	94	61	76	+8	170	2815	2959
C	Grand Island	91	60	76	+10	177	2847	2767
	Lexington	92	60	76	+10	170	2834	2711
	Ord	91	61	76	+10	175	2707	2747
EC	Lincoln	92	64	79	+11	189	3181	3040
	Central City	90	58	76	+9	174	2821	2815
	Mead	94	60	77	+8	171	2936	3022
SW	Champion	96	53	74	+9	148	2488	2636
	North Platte	93	57	75	+9	159	2612	2670
	Curtis	93	58	75	+9	162	2683	2676
SC	Smithfield	90	59	74	+8	163	2703	2720
	Minden	91	60	76	+10	171	2819	2736
	Red Cloud	90	62	76	+10	176	2999	2796
SE	Beatrice	91	64	76	+8	176	3027	3040
	Clay Center	90	61	76	+9	174	2857	2794
	Nemaha	92	66	79	+10	192	3205	3048

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office