



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending May 21, 2006, warm, dry, windy conditions allowed spring planting to advance rapidly, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service, Nebraska Field Office. Corn planting was almost complete and soybeans were near three-fourths planted. As soil moisture supplies declined, irrigation continued to be used to germinate crops and activate chemicals. Hay harvest was underway, nearly a week ahead of normal. For the first time this year, precipitation totals since April 1 are below normal for the whole state. The Panhandle, Southwest, South Central, and Central Districts are below fifty percent of normal.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged three degrees above normal. Southern counties saw highs in the mid-nineties. Limited precipitation occurred across the state with less than a tenth of an inch reported in most places.

### Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending May 21, 2006

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	21	15	1	8
Short	37	25	17	17
Adequate	42	59	79	71
Surplus	0	1	3	4
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	18	16	10	18
Short	34	30	24	28
Adequate	48	54	65	53
Surplus	0	0	1	1
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.8	6.2	5.5	5.2

**Field Crops Report:** Wheat conditions rated 12 percent very poor, 18 poor, 35 fair, 32 good, and 3 excellent, well below last year. Wheat jointed was at 99 percent, ahead of 93 percent last year and the five-year average of 88. Wheat headed was at 35 percent, ahead of 20 last year and 30 average.

Corn planting was 97 percent complete. This is ahead of last year's 96 percent and the five-year average of 93. Corn emerged was at 69 percent, ahead of last year at 65 and 61 average. Corn conditions rated 2 percent poor, 30 fair, 63 good, and 5 excellent. This is below last year's condition.

Soybean planting had a huge week because of the dry weather and was 72 percent complete. This is ahead of last year's 66 and a week ahead of average at 54.

Alfalfa 1<sup>st</sup> cutting was 27 percent complete due to the dry weather and concerns of deteriorating conditions associated with insect problems. This is a week ahead of last year and the five-year average of 9. Alfalfa conditions declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 29 fair, 50 good, and 14 excellent. This rating continues above last year.

Oat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 29 fair, 58 good, and 7 excellent, which is below last year.

Sorghum planted was 40 percent complete. This is ahead of last year's 37 and average of 29. Sorghum was 5 percent emerged. This is below last year and average of 7.

Dry bean planting was underway and was 10 percent complete. This is ahead of last year's 0 and average of 6.

### Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending May 21, 2006

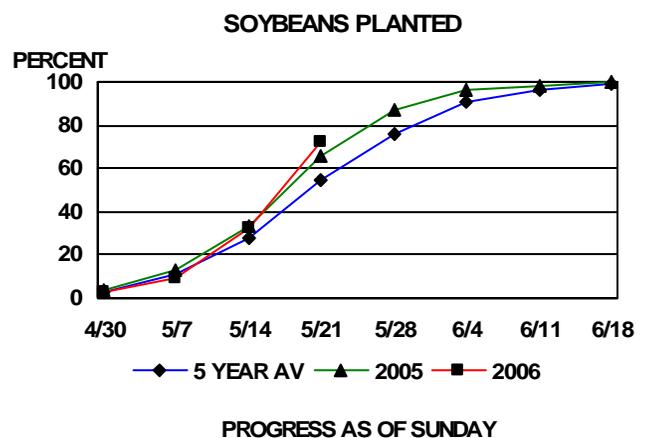
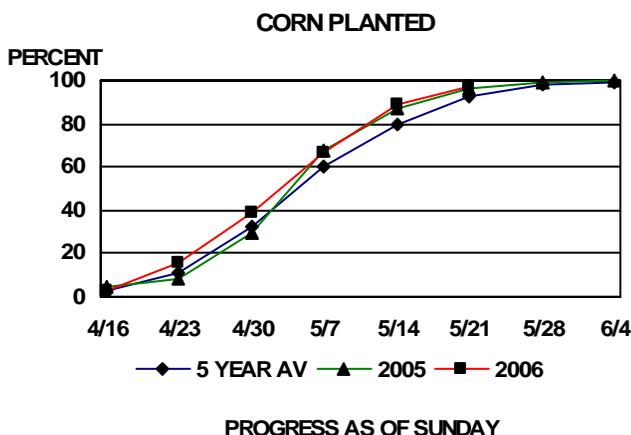
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	27	5	9	9
Corn Planted	97	89	96	93
Corn Emerged	69	34	65	61
Dry Beans Planted	10	0	0	6
Sorghum Planted	40	13	37	29
Sorghum Emerged	5	0	7	7
Soybeans Planted	72	32	66	54
Soybeans Emerged	13	2	22	19
Wheat Jointed	99	79	93	88
Wheat Headed	35	12	20	30

### Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 21, 2006

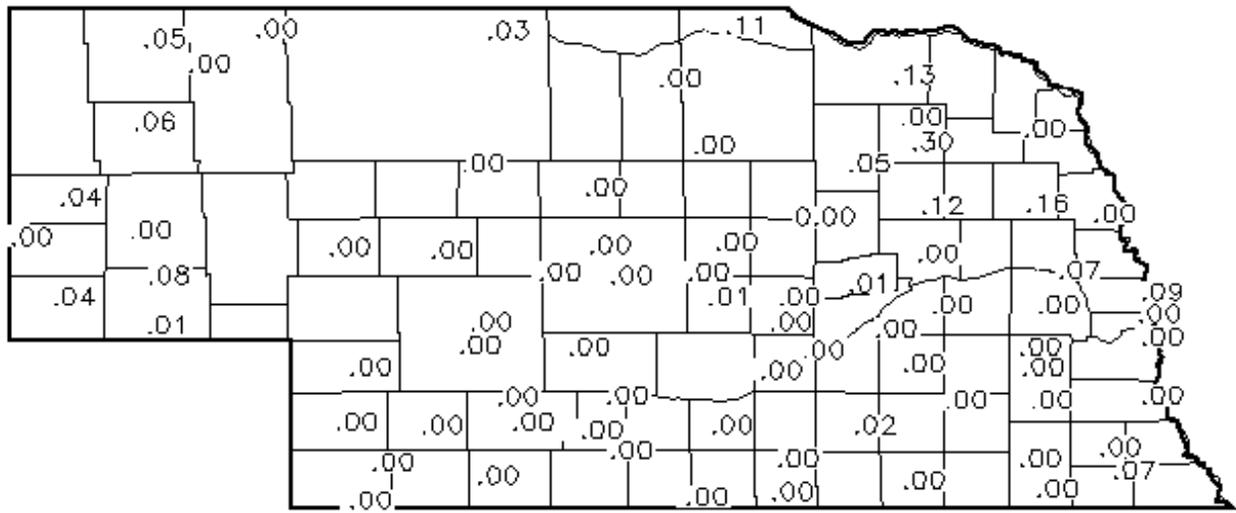
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	1	6	29	50	14
Corn	0	2	30	63	5
Oats	1	5	29	58	7
Wheat	12	18	35	32	3

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions continued to decline and rated 5 percent very poor, 17 poor, 34 fair, 39 good, and 5 excellent, even with last year. Cattle were being moved to pasture as growth allowed. Spot hay shortages were noted in parts of the southwest.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm).*



**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. May 21, 2006**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – May 21, 2006**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.08	.04	.10	.00	.03	.00	.00	.01
Total since April 1	1.56	3.50	3.78	2.07	4.23	.86	1.76	5.23
Normal since April 1	3.79	4.30	5.08	4.85	5.45	4.11	4.61	5.51
Total as % of normal	41%	81%	74%	42%	77%	20%	38%	94%

**Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 21, 2006**

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW Alliance	89	36	63	+6	
	Scottsbluff	90	33	64	+7
	Sidney	89	33	62	+4
NC Ainsworth	88	36	64	+3	
	Arthur	88	35	64	+4
	O'Neill	87	40	63	+2
NE Concord	89	43	62	0	
	Elgin	87	42	65	+3
	West Point	90	42	63	0
C Grand Island	91	39	64	+3	
	Lexington	93	38	66	+5
	Ord	88	38	63	+2
EC Central City	92	41	65	+2	
	Lincoln	92	45	66	+2
	Mead	92	45	66	+2
SW Champion	94	32	65	+5	
	Dickens	94	32	65	+4
	McCook	94	34	65	+4
SC Minden	96	39	65	+4	
	Red Cloud	94	41	64	+2
	Smithfield	95	39	66	+5
SE Beatrice	96	43	65	+1	
	Clay Center	94	39	64	+2
	Nemaha	94	46	66	+2

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