



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service
Nebraska Field Office

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending July 30, 2006, the lack of rainfall and high temperatures continued to stress dryland crops and pastures and lower producer morale, according to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Temperatures reached into the 100's for the third week in a row. Wildfires, caused by lightning, were burning in the northwest. Irrigation systems were running at capacity. In many counties, CRP was being utilized for haying or grazing.

Weather Summary: Temperatures reached triple digits for the third straight week in every district. The Southwest and Southeast Districts reached highs of 104. Little or no precipitation fell across the state with the North Central District picking up the most with an average of 4 tenths of an inch.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending July 30, 2006**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	50	35	24	28
Short	33	36	33	32
Adequate	17	29	43	39
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	47	45	18	30
Short	37	36	40	35
Adequate	16	19	42	35
Surplus	0	0	0	0
Days Suitable	6.7	6.0	5.7	6.0

Field Crops Report: Corn conditions declined and rated 6 percent very poor, 11 poor, 29 fair, 39 good, and 15 excellent. Irrigated fields rated 73 percent good or excellent while dryland fields rated 25, both below year ago levels and the lowest since 2002. Ninety-five percent had silked, the same as last year and ahead of 87 average. Twenty-nine percent of the corn was in the dough stage, near last year's 27 and ahead of the average 20. A few fields were beginning to show corn in the dent stage in the south central part of the state.

Soybean conditions declined and rated 7 percent very poor, 18 poor, 37 fair, 34 good, and 4 excellent, below last year. Ninety-one percent of the acreage had bloomed, behind last year's 95, but ahead of the 86 average. Sixty-four percent were setting pods, ahead of last year's 58 and the average 39.

Alfalfa conditions declined and rated 21 percent very poor, 28 poor, 30 fair, 20 good, and 1 excellent. This rating continues to be well below last year. Alfalfa second cutting was 96 percent complete, near last year and the average of 94.

Alfalfa third cutting was 26 percent complete, ahead of last year's 21 and average of 17. Wild hay conditions declined and rated 21 percent very poor, 31 poor, 32 fair, 14 good, and 2 excellent.

Oats harvested was 91 percent complete, behind last year's 93, but ahead of the average 85.

Sorghum conditions rated 5 percent very poor, 16 poor, 38 fair, 33 good, and 8 excellent, which is below last year. Fifty-three percent of the sorghum planted had begun to head. This is ahead of last year's 41 and the average of 30.

Dry beans were blooming on 90 percent of the acreage planted, well ahead of last year's 65 and 64 average. Twenty-eight percent of the dry beans planted were setting pods, behind last year's 36, but near the average of 27. Dry bean conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 7 poor, 45 fair, 47 good, and 1 excellent.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending July 30, 2006

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 2 nd Cutting	96	93	94	94
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	26	6	21	17
Corn Silked	95	81	95	87
Corn Dough	29	9	27	20
Dry Beans Blooming	90	62	65	64
Dry Beans Setting Pods	28	11	36	27
Oats Harvested	91	85	93	85
Sorghum Headed	53	21	41	30
Soybeans Blooming	91	75	95	86
Soybeans Setting Pods	64	32	58	39

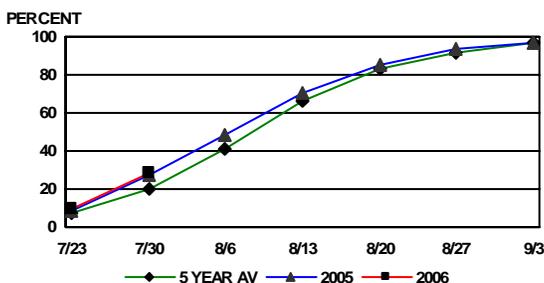
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending July 30, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	21	28	30	20	1
Corn	6	11	29	39	15
Dry Beans	0	7	45	47	1
Sorghum	5	16	38	33	8
Soybeans	7	18	37	34	4
Wild Hay	21	31	32	14	2

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions declined and rated 34 percent very poor, 36 poor, 24 fair, 6 good, and 0 excellent. As pastures continued to decline, producers were weaning calves early, reducing herds, and supplementing feed to livestock on dry pastures.

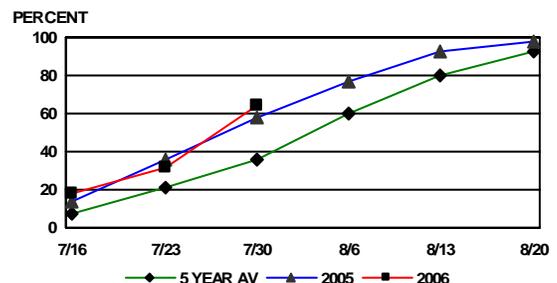
This release is based on data from FSA county directors, extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm.

CORN DOUGH



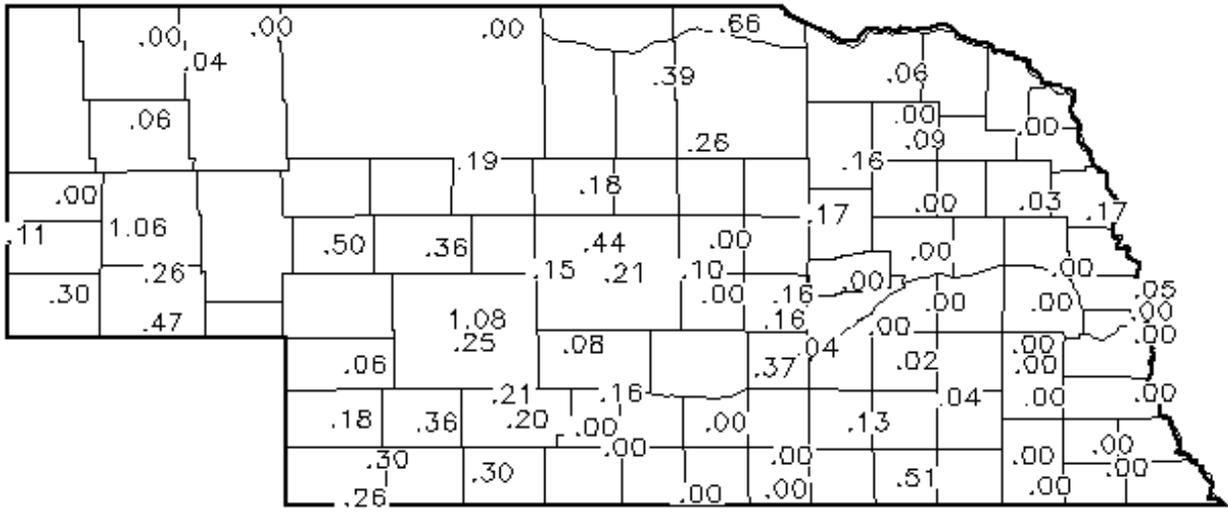
PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

SOYBEANS SETTING PODS



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. July 30, 2006



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – July 30, 2006

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.11	.41	.08	.18	.02	.32	.01	.09
Total since April 1	5.98	7.68	8.34	7.83	9.81	8.22	9.28	13.10
Normal since April 1	10.06	12.04	13.71	13.00	14.23	11.68	12.73	14.60
Total as % of normal	59%	64%	60%	60%	68%	70%	73%	89%

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, July 30, 2006**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	101	56	79	+5	159	1699	1581
	Scottsbluff	102	58	81	+8	172	1811	1576
	Sidney	100	55	80	+6	170	1733	1632
NC	Ainsworth	100	64	82	+6	185	1842	1798
	Arthur	100	59	80	+5	172	1783	1748
	O'Neill	102	63	82	+6	185	1834	1827
NE	Concord	98	64	81	+4	189	1877	1893
	Elgin	98	64	80	+4	185	1877	1862
	West Point	101	64	81	+3	185	1923	1969
C	Grand Island	97	64	80	+4	187	1986	1835
	Lexington	99	64	82	+6	191	2043	1800
	Ord	100	61	81	+5	180	1923	1825
EC	Central City	99	65	81	+5	190	1969	1869
	Lincoln	102	71	86	+7	213	2133	2081
	Mead	99	64	80	+2	188	2006	2011
SW	Champion	99	58	78	+3	163	1881	1759
	Dickens	101	57	80	+4	168	1915	1777
	McCook	104	61	82	+7	181	2006	1789
SC	Minden	96	61	79	+4	183	2000	1814
	Red Cloud	103	63	84	+8	192	2066	1855
	Smithfield	96	60	79	+3	179	1974	1805
SE	Beatrice	98	64	82	+4	195	2045	2018
	Clay Center	95	59	79	+3	180	1944	1854
	Nemaha	104	69	84	+6	206	2164	2028

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