

U. S. Department of Agriculture
 Bureau of Agricultural Economics
 and
 U. S. Department of Commerce
 Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
 Division of Agr'l. Statistics
 and
 Agricultural Extension Service
 Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 3-24-53 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 3-23-53

WEATHER Average temperatures were near to slightly above normal in the extreme west to unseasonably high in the east. A few light to moderate showers occurred over the eastern portion of the State, but the western stations received little or no rain. Strong winds raised considerable dust over the western portion on two days.

CROPS Wheat in eastern Nebraska and summer fallow wheat in the west generally made excellent progress last week. A number of counties in western Nebraska reported considerable damage from high winds, especially on the lighter soils in the Panhandle and in the southwest. Moisture has been lacking since March 1 in the southern Panhandle and in the southwest except for a few counties. Some counties in the central portion are also short of moisture. The dry surface soil has checked progress. A good spring rain is needed, especially in the western two-thirds of the wheat belt.

Some counties are reporting a spotted condition of the wheat that did not come up until this spring. Heretofore the reports have been quite favorable. Some spring wheat is being sown in the spotted winter wheat fields in southwestern and south central Nebraska. Oats, barley, sorghum and corn will replace abandoned wheat in the southwestern portion of the State.

A considerable percentage of the oats were sown last week, some counties reporting up to 50% of the acreage seeded. Some seeding of oats has been done in the northern portion of the State. Present plans are to sow 7% less oats than last year but slightly above the 10-yr. average. Last year's acreage was above the average.

Pastures have made some growth in areas where the surface moisture is ample. Some of the wheat is being pastured. Ample moisture in the northern portion of the Sandhills and the central wild hay areas will give grass a good start in that portion of the State. There is still some hay available for sale.

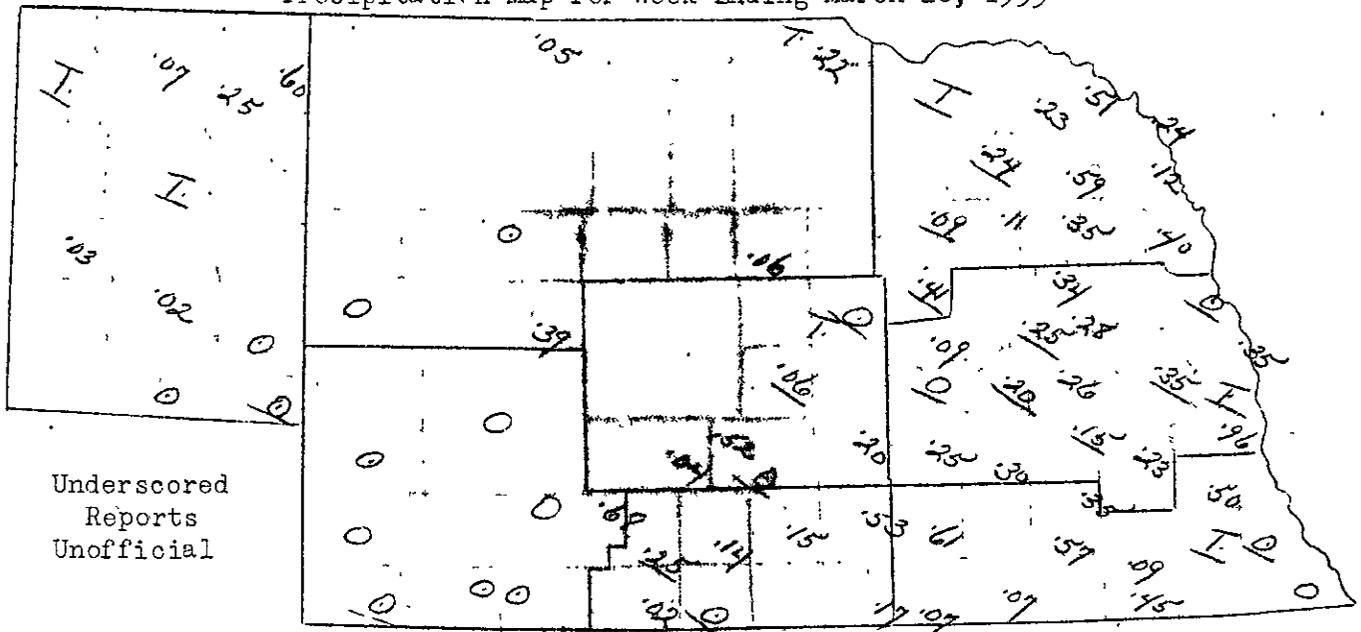
Intended acreages of minor crops this year are expected to vary considerably from last year. The acreage of corn will be up about 3%. The seeded acreage of winter wheat is 3% less and a greater abandonment than last year is expected. Spring wheat acreage is considerably larger. The decline of 10% in barley acreage is indicated. Sorghum acreage is expected to be up 40% unless moisture conditions become more favorable for the corn areas in the western two-thirds of the State. Potatoes are expected to be down 3%, sugar beets 10%, while dry edible beans are expected to be up 16%. An increase of 20% in soybeans is expected, due largely to excellent yields last year. The expected increase of 4% in all hay is due largely to the increase in alfalfa.

LIVESTOCK Milk production is catching up with the demand. Total chicken hatchery production for Jan. and Febr. is 12% below the first two months of 1952. Several of the counties reported a good demand for bred sows and pigs.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 23, 1953

<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>Central Division</u>		<u>Western Division</u>
Grand Island .14	Burwell .06	1250	Chadron .11
Lincoln .26	Lexington 0	3-24-53	Imperial 0
Norfolk .11	North Platte 0		Scottsbluff .03
Omaha .38	Valentine 0		Sidney 0
Sioux City .14			

Precipitation Map for Week Ending March 20, 1953



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (for 24 hours ending in a.m.)

		March													
		17th		18th		19th		20th		21st		22nd		23rd	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	63	32	65	22	49	28	65	34	65	34	52	25	50	23
	Scottsbluff	65	28	65	--	52	30	65	34	65	31	51	25	50	22
	Sidney	64	31	69	27	53	29	64	28	68	34	50	25	47	18
N-C	Burwell	--	--	--	--	52	24	62	39	63	41	44	31	53	31
	Valentine	61	41	71	30	48	24	64	44	64	37	49	32	51	31
NE	Norfolk	57	29	70	39	54	24	59	44	62	50	61	32	50	33
	Sioux City	59	29	68	39	55	24	51	43	64	50	--	--	45	31
CEN.	Grand Island	66	39	70	39	56	28	64	42	71	47	64	33	56	29
	Lexington	65	31	71	32	55	29	68	34	71	42	54	37	57	26
E-C	Lincoln	66	33	66	43	57	30	61	47	77	61	70	36	48	34
	Omaha	64	30	67	43	57	28	58	47	66	58	74	34	46	36
SW	Imperial	65	31	73	25	55	25	67	32	74	36	55	30	52	21
	North Platte	63	32	73	28	54	28	67	36	71	41	55	28	53	25

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