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Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report



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WEATHER

Temperatures were 7 to 11 degrees above normal the first of the period falling sharply to 19 to 26 degrees below normal the last of the period.

Rainfall was intermittent throughout the period occurring as showers and thunderstorms. The heavier rainfall occurred over the west central and southeast portions of the State.

CROPS

Thundershowers occurred statewide again this past week, rainfall amounts averaging from traces to one inch. Cooler temperatures slowed maturity of crops and have caused concern to many as to the possibility of an early frost. This morning the temperature fell to 27° at North Platte, 31° at Kearney, and 35° at Lincoln. Immature grain sorghum heads are quite vulnerable to frost at this stage but temperatures were at the low point for only a brief period of time.

Almost all seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the survey week (August 24-30). Topsoil moisture supplies continue to be short in 63% of the counties. Subsoil moisture supplies are unchanged from the previous week with 87% of the counties short. Fall seedbed preparation is continuing with some wheat being seeded.

Irrigated corn remains in fair to good condition throughout the State. One county reported excellent condition. Most irrigators have now stopped watering. Recent rains and cooler temperatures have helped them catch up on soil moisture.

Dryland corn conditions continue to be mostly poor to fair with one county reporting good. Recent climatic conditions have brought some greening to the corn helping the forage content but not the grain. Silage cutting is underway throughout the State.

In general, about 85% of both irrigated and non-irrigated corn acreages are in or past the dough stage. Normal percentage is 100% at this time. About 55% of the crop has dented, 65% is normal. Spider mites in corn are still a problem in the Panhandle, but are stabilized elsewhere in the State.

Sorghum conditions improved again this past week with 13% of counties reported as poor, 71% as fair, and 16% as good. About 95% of the crop has headed over the State, normal by this time is 100%. About 30% has turned now with 42% being normal. The greenbug problem of past weeks has stabilized in most areas.

Soybean conditions have continued to improve and are reported as mostly fair to good. This last week only 9% of the counties reported conditions as poor. About 90% of the soybeans have podded to date, compared to the normal of 100%. Farmers in several counties are concerned about the possibility of an early frost and the damage it could have on the soybeans.

Alfalfa conditions continue to improve. About 70% of the third cutting of alfalfa has been harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture feed supplies are becoming short again with 87% of the counties reporting short supplies. Recent rains have helped green up pastures but have not been sufficient for continued growth. Some counties report higher stock cattle sales due to pasture and forage shortages. Supplemental feeding is continuing throughout the State.

