NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

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NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For Week Ending May 2, 1993

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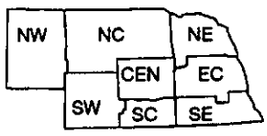
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources–UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures for the week averaged from one to three degrees below normals. Scattered precipitation occurred throughout the week with amounts varying from a tenth of an inch in the northwest up to over an inch in the north central area of the State.

GENERAL

Soil drying weather conditions last week allowed producers a good start at fieldwork activities, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Fieldwork activities came in the form of discing, shredding stalks, applying preplant herbicides and fertilizers, and oat and corn planting. Areas of many fields continued to be too soft and in some cases, equipment was difficult to get back out of the field. Other activities included equipment preparations for planting, working with farm-stored grain, livestock care, and routine chores.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition was rated at 18% fair, 66% good, and 16% excellent. As of Sunday, 20% of the wheat crop has reached the jointing stage. This compares with 61% last year and 44% for the five-year average. Warmer temperatures are needed for continued proper growth. Instances of wheat streak mosaic in western areas and soil borne mosaic in southeast areas have been observed.

CROPS (Cont.)

Oat planting made progress last week with 64% sown to date. Last year at this date, planting was complete while the five-year average was 98% finished. Some intended oat acres may not be planted to oats this spring due to the wet spring causing planting delays.

Corn planting made a start in all areas of the State last week with 9% completed at week's end. This compares with 37% last year and 33% for the five-year average. Harvest of last fall's unharvested corn also progressed well and is nearing completion in most areas statewide.

Sugar beet planting progressed well last week and was about 95% complete in the major sugar beet counties. Potato planting was off to a good start.

Alfalfa condition was rated at 7% fair, 78% good, and 15% excellent.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range condition was rated at 97% of normal and compares with 88% of normal last year at this time. Grasses remain slow in providing spring growth due to cool, wet conditions. Some cattle are being moved to pastures although supplemental feeding continued in many cases. Drying conditions last week did improve overall conditions for cattle but additional drying weather is needed for grass growth and calf health.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 2, 1993	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% wheat jointed	1	6	5	8	8	34	44	29	20	8	61	44
% oats sown	73	41	70	67	44	55	88	65	64	15	100	98
% corn planted	10	2	6	9	8	8	21	9	9	0	37	33
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF APRIL 30, 1993												
Days suitable	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.0	5.7	5.2	5.0	2.2	5.8	
Topsoil moisture - Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	
(Percent) - Adequate	100	75	61	85	72	89	100	75	79	53	63	
- Surplus	0	25	39	15	28	11	0	25	21	47	3	
Subsoil moisture - Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	
(Percent) - Adequate	100	92	67	61	52	78	90	81	74	67	79	
- Surplus	0	8	33	39	48	22	10	19	26	33	2	

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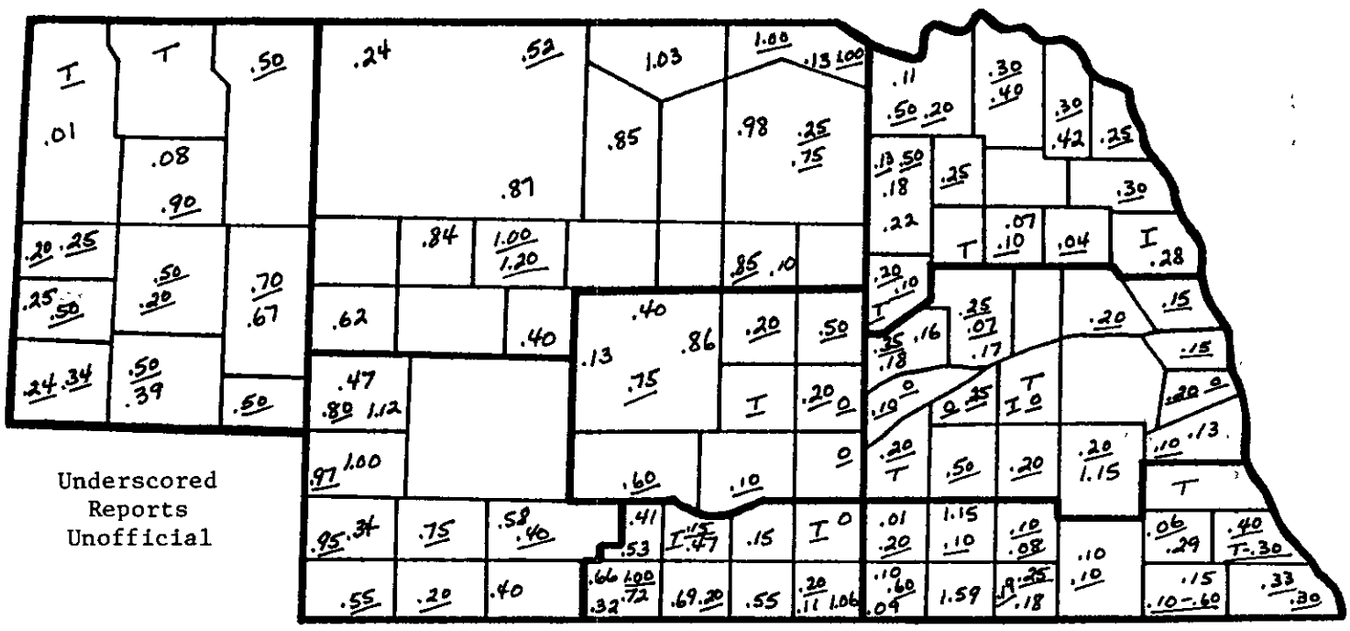
PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1993



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - APRIL 30, 1993

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.23	.61	.18	.46	.26	.65	.47	.37
Total since April 1	1.61	2.95	3.67	2.36	3.43	1.69	1.87	2.75
Normal since April 1	1.75	2.18	2.46	2.39	2.78	1.77	2.11	2.76

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1993

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	73	30	50	---	.09	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	75	27	51	0	.17	52	100	111
	Sidney	74	24	52	---	.04	55	106	119
NC	Valentine	79	24	50	-2	1.15	64	107	105
NE	Norfolk	75	36	54	-1	.43	---	---	---
	Sioux City	71	33	54	-2	.49	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	63	105	137
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	59	101	128
	West Point*	---	---	---	---	---	62	114	141
CEN	Grand Island	76	37	54	-2	.27	63	112	132
	Ord	75	31	52	---	.23	69	111	141
EC	Lincoln	75	35	54	-3	.95	61	112	144
	Omaha	73	35	56	-1	.39	50	108	126
	Columbus	---	---	---	---	---	56	110	134
	York	---	---	---	---	---	56	116	144
SW	Imperial	75	28	53	---	.76	---	---	---
	North Platte	76	27	51	-2	.77	**72	**125	**138
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	81	133	152
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	84	137	168
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	73	127	154

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above. * Automated weather station. ** North Platte Experiment Station.

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.