

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS

NEBRASKA
 AGRICULTURAL
 STATISTICS
 SERVICE

For Week Ending May 19, 1996

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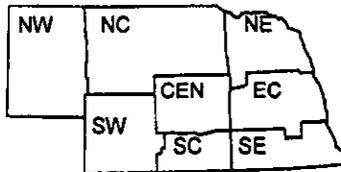
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WEATHER

Temperatures averaged from two degrees above normals in the east and up to ten degrees above normals in the west. Precipitation varied widely from a trace in the Panhandle to over one and a half inches in the central district.

GENERAL

Fieldwork and crop progress in the eastern two-thirds of the State was once again delayed by rain and cool temperatures last week, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. By week's end, however, dry and warmer weather conditions allowed producers to continue fieldwork. Excessive rains in the east central district, during the first part of the week, caused erosion in some planted fields. Growers in the Panhandle and southwest, where soil moisture is shortest, received very little rainfall. Producer activities consisted of planting row crops, grain marketing and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition improved from last week and rated 6% very poor, 18% poor, 52% fair, 23% good and 1% excellent. As of Sunday, 73% of the crop had reached the jointing stage, about seven days behind last year and the average. This compares with 90% jointed last year, and 89% for the five-year average. The crop began heading last week, behind normal progress.

Corn planting progressed last week, with 83% of the

CROPS (Cont.)

expected acreage completed as of Sunday, ahead of last year's 46% and average of 78%. The northwest and southwest districts experienced the fewest delays with rainfall less than one-half inch in most areas. Emergence rated at 43% complete. This is ahead of last year's 3% and 37% average. Flooding and erosion problems may require some limited replanting in the southeast.

Soybean planting picked up last week with 14% complete to date. This is ahead of last year's 5%, but behind the five-year average of 29%. Planting activities were the most advanced in the north central district.

Sorghum planting moved ahead slowly with 7% complete, about a week behind average. This compares with last year's 2% and the five-year average of 23%.

Oats condition rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 42% fair, 47% good, and 5% excellent.

Alfalfa condition rated 3% very poor, 12% poor, 47% fair, 35% good, and 3% excellent. The crop benefited from rainfall received last week. Wild hay condition rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 51% fair, 40% good, and 2% excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 1% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 48% good and 3% excellent. More producers were moving cattle to pastures. Recent rains will really benefit pastures. Feedlots in the east central part of the State were very muddy from rains received last week.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 19, 1996	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	94	98	81	89	73	89	92	88	83	76	46	78
% Corn Emerged	44	20	18	50	42	39	65	81	43	10	3	37
% Wheat Jointed	56	43	45	68	52	93	71	95	73	39	90	89
% Wheat Headed	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	n/a	2	16
% Sorghum Planted	0	2	17	18	11	13	12	4	7	5	2	23
% Soybeans Planted	0	42	14	16	12	36	28	13	14	7	5	29
% Soybeans Emerged	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	n/a	0	8
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 17, 1996												
Days suitable	6.4	5.1	2.4	3.2	0.9	6.2	3.2	0.4	3.0	3.2	4.7	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	1	0	0	0	0	5	13	0	2	2	0	
- Short	58	17	0	10	2	64	14	1	14	10	0	
- Adequate	41	83	86	63	63	31	73	93	72	72	60	
- Surplus	0	0	14	27	35	0	0	6	12	16	40	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	1	0	0	0	0	13	18	0	3	4	0	
- Short	40	18	11	46	15	66	29	46	27	30	1	
- Adequate	59	81	86	46	83	21	53	54	68	63	71	
- Surplus	0	1	3	8	2	0	0	0	2	3	28	

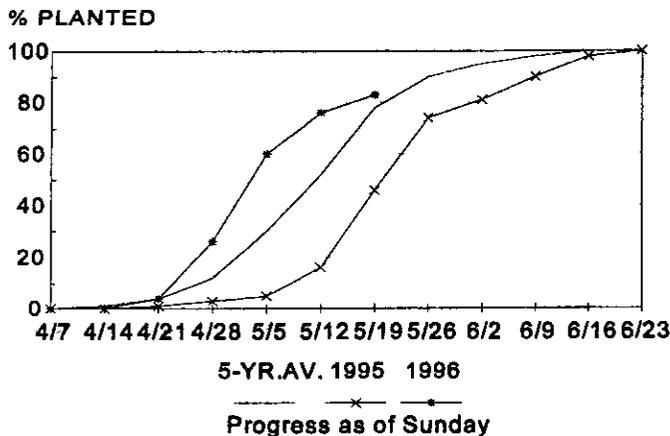
n/a = not available

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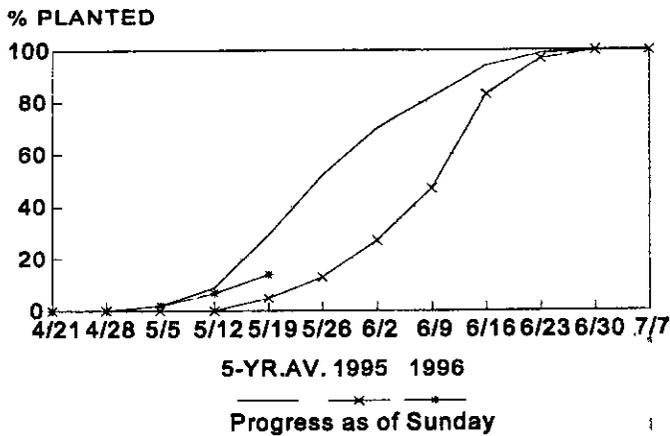
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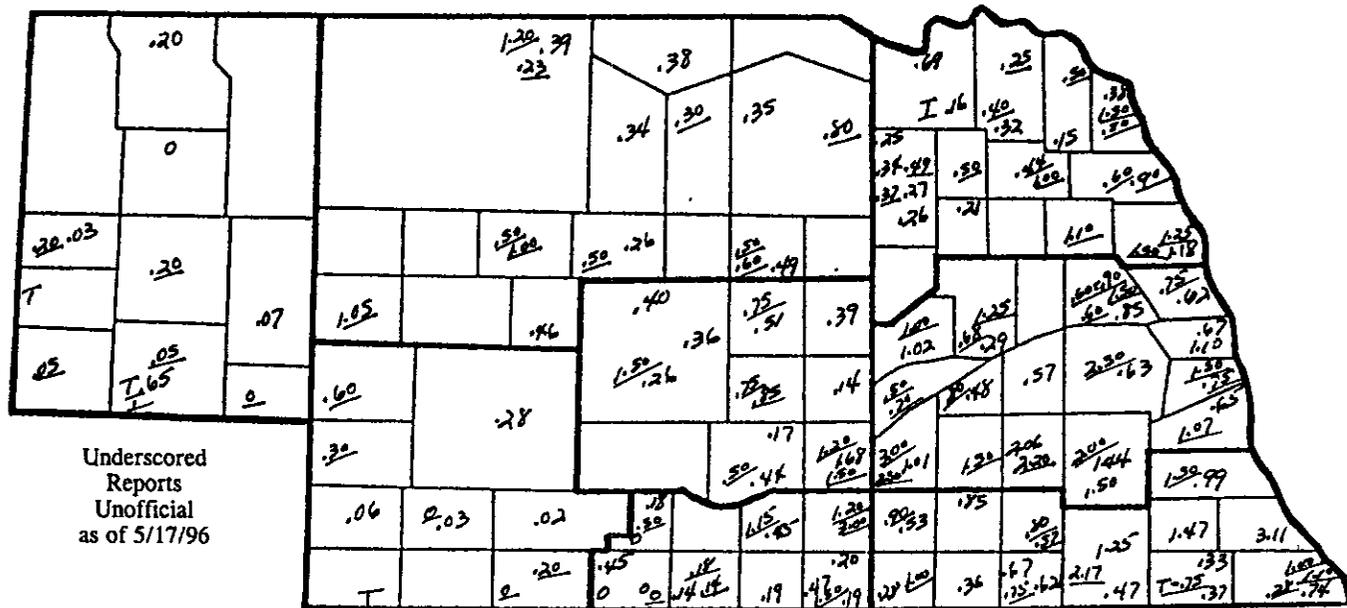
CORN PLANTED



SOYBEANS PLANTED



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1996



Underscored Reports
Unofficial
as of 5/17/96

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 18, 1996

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.14	.38	.38	.48	.92	.08	.21	.86
Total since April 1	2.32	2.34	2.84	3.59	6.82	1.93	3.31	6.28
Normal since April 1	3.57	4.10	4.62	4.55	5.16	3.78	4.36	5.12
Total as % of normal	65%	57%	61%	79%	132%	51%	76%	123%

**TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA,
WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1996**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15			
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	Max	Min							
NW	Chadron	90	42	66	---	---	---	---	
	Scottsbluff	94	43	66	+10	.03	191	310	290
	Sidney	87	44	64	---	T	166	279	259
NC	Valentine	92	43	65	+8	.39	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	158	277	254
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	149	260	299
NE	Norfolk	92	39	63	+2	.21	---	---	---
	Sioux City	97	41	63	+2	.38	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	155	266	317
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	147	263	293
CEN	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	176	286	313
	Grand Island	93	42	64	+3	1.68	---	---	---
	Ord	90	39	63	---	.51	170	291	315
EC	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	191	323	331
	Lincoln	93	41	64	+2	1.44	213	341	349
	Omaha	92	42	63	+1	.67	---	---	---
SW	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	196	317	356
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	207	323	343
	Imperial	95	44	68	---	.06	---	---	---
SC	North Platte	93	37	66	+8	.28	193	321	309
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	205	335	350
	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	207	346	334
SE	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	236	375	363
	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	241	375	353
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	201	326	337

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.