

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS



For Week Ending October 26, 1997

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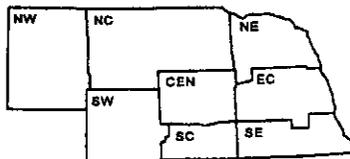
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National Weather Service



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and Natural Resources-UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures across the State averaged six to eight degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was widespread with amounts averaging from seven-tenths of an inch in the northeast to over three inches in the south central.

GENERAL

Fall row crop harvests continued in full swing until the weekend when an unseasonably early snow storm hit the State, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Snow accumulations of six inches or more were recorded across the southeastern half of Nebraska with record high accumulations of ten to twenty-three inches recorded in many south central, southeastern and east central counties. The wet snow, accompanied by high winds, downed stalks in unharvested corn and sorghum fields and broke stems of standing soybeans. The additional moisture was welcomed by western wheat growers, however, cattle producers using stalk fields for feed found temporary fencing damaged and grazing limited. Grain producers will need snow to melt and soils to dry before harvest progress will again be possible. Warm soils and melting snow will keep heavy equipment from being driven in unharvested fields. Elevators continued to pile grain outside in temporary storage locations. Sugar beet producers were pushing harvest hard in western counties. Other farm activities included livestock care and equipment repair.

CROPS

Corn for grain harvest was 63% complete, well ahead of 42% last year and 44% average. Moisture of grain coming

CROPS (Cont.)

out of the field continued to drop, with grain drying expenses well below year ago levels. The extent of additional field losses associated with the weekend storm have not been determined.

Soybean harvest neared completion and was 91% complete, behind 97% last year and 93% average. Producers continued to focus on corn and sorghum during the week waiting for a hard freeze to make soybean harvest easier.

Sorghum grain harvest was 79% complete, well ahead of 26% last year and 49% average.

Alfalfa condition rated 2% very poor, 11% poor, 33% fair, 52% good and 2% excellent. Fourth cutting was near completion at 92% harvested as the weekend storm hit. Most remaining fields will not have a fourth cutting this season.

Winter wheat condition showed little change and rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 54% good and 9% excellent. Reports from the western counties indicated the moisture received the last two weeks had encouraged germination of seed that had laid dry.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 6% very poor, 17% poor, 29% fair, 44% good, and 4% excellent. Stalk fields provided limited feed value as snow covered the ground. Producers were scouting fence lines and considering supplemental feeding. Feedlot operators were expecting muddy lots to slow weight gains.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF OCTOBER 26, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS									STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
% Corn Harvested	36	37	58	52	70	48	75	76	63	45	42	44	
% Soybeans Harvested	n/a	87	89	79	93	95	96	90	91	79	97	93	
% Sorghum Harvested	n/a	50	99	66	90	64	70	79	79	54	26	49	
% Alfalfa Fourth Cutting	89	99	80	96	95	95	94	99	92	82	n/a	n/a	
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF OCTOBER 24, 1997													
Days suitable	5.7	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.3	5.9	6.2	6.9	6.2	4.2	6.6		
Topsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	17	2	2	2		
- Short	9	16	32	5	7	16	38	24	18	15	21		
- Adequate	49	83	66	86	86	73	52	59	72	78	75		
- Surplus	42	1	1	9	7	9	10	0	8	5	2		
Subsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	2	1	12	0	0	5	2	33	7	6	0		
- Short	13	15	28	21	23	30	46	42	26	25	12		
- Adequate	85	83	59	76	76	63	42	25	65	67	86		
- Surplus	0	1	1	3	1	2	10	0	2	2	2		

n/a = not available

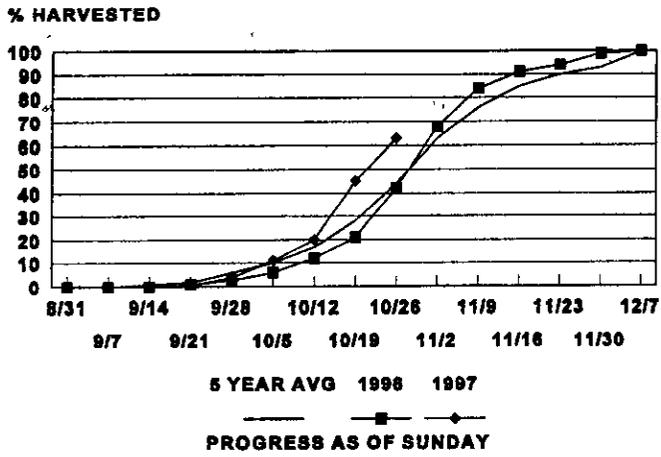
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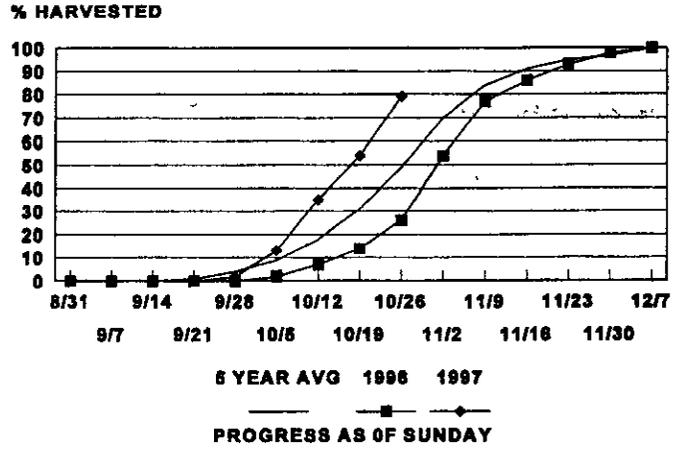
10/26/97

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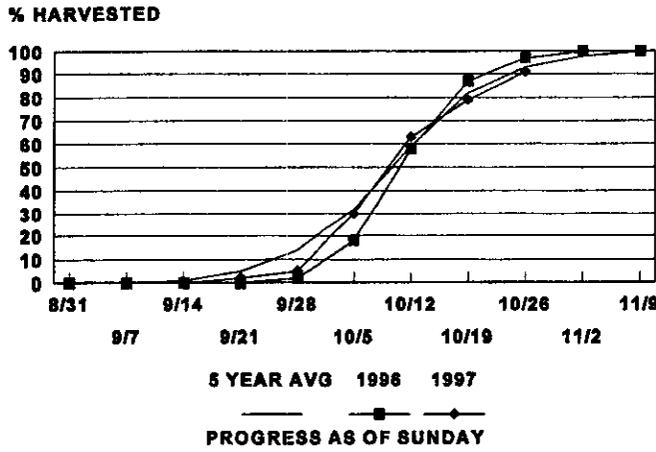
CORN
HARVESTED FOR GRAIN



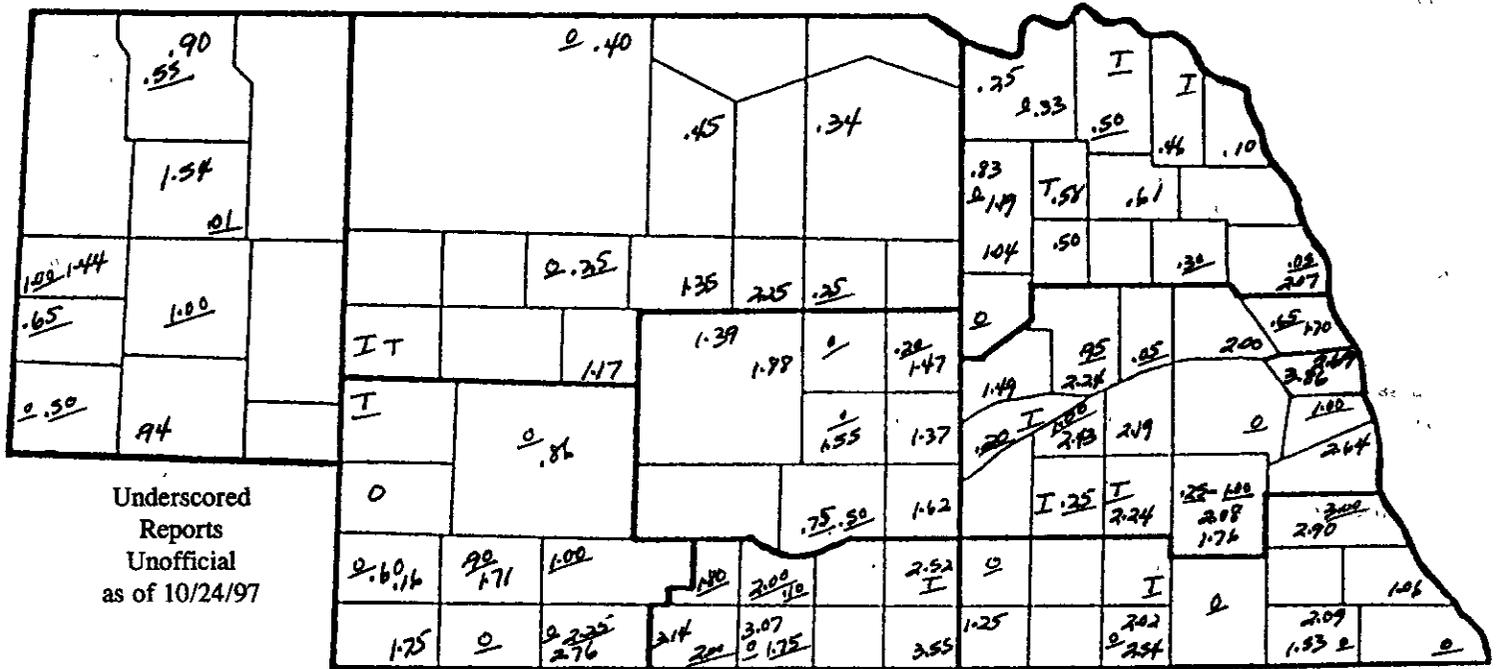
SORGHUM
HARVESTED FOR GRAIN



SOYBEANS
HARVESTED FOR ALL PURPOSES



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1997



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1997

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	64	10	41	---	.90
Scottsbluff	64	6	39	-8	1.44
Sidney	63	8	39	---	.94
NC Valentine	62	14	38	-8	.40
NE Norfolk	62	29	42	-7	.50
Sioux City	61	25	42	-7	.10
CEN Grand Island	61	28	44	-6	1.62
Ord	65	23	43	---	---
EC Lincoln	60	31	45	-6	2.08
Omaha	59	30	44	-7	2.69
SW Imperial	67	14	43	---	.60
North Platte	67	20	40	-7	.86