

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS



Issue: 29-98
Released: 9/21/98 - 3:00 p.m.

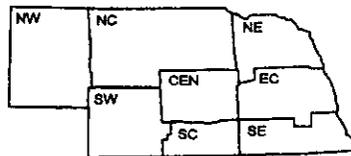
For Week Ending September 20, 1998

P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, NE 68501

Phone: (402) 437-5541
Location: 273 Federal Bldg

Internet: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/agstats/index.htm>
e-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

National Agricultural Statistics Service
U S Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn
National Weather Service



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

WEATHER

Another dry and warm week. Temperatures averaged seven to ten degrees above normals. Precipitation was light in most areas. However, heavy amounts of up to three inches fell in portions of the Southeast over the weekend.

GENERAL

Dry, hot conditions prevailed for the fifth week in a row, continuing the rapid maturing and dry down of fall crops, but halting pasture regrowth, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Grain moisture levels continued to decline, with corn and soybean harvests picking up momentum and sorghum just underway. Wheat harvest was nearing completion in the Panhandle and just passed the halfway point, Statewide. In the west, dry bean harvest was over 50% complete and millet was being cut. Insect damage was again reported in farm stored grain. Other producer activities included hay harvest, grain harvest preparations and livestock care.

CROPS

Corn condition rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 64% good, and 19% excellent. Dryland corn rated 78% in good or excellent condition and 86% of the irrigated corn rated in those categories. Corn mature jumped to 83%, two weeks ahead of ahead of 27% a year earlier and 33% average. Corn for grain harvest moved to 8%, well ahead of 1% last year and 2% average. High moisture corn harvest was active in western counties, but was beginning to slow in the East. Stalk rot was common in many counties, with the possibility of high winds increasing field losses a concern.

CROPS (cont.)

Soybean condition rated 4% poor, 21% fair, 58% good, and 17% excellent. Nearly all the crop was colored. Soybeans dropping leaves jumped to 71%, ahead of 55% last year and 41% average. Harvested was at 4%, compared to 2% last year and 4% average.

Sorghum condition rated 2% poor, 13% fair, 64% good, and 21% excellent. Near half, or 51%, was mature, well ahead of 26% last year and 25% average.

Dry bean condition rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 53% good and 11% excellent. Nearly all the crop, 93%, was dropping leaves, near 87% last year, and 88% average. Harvest moved to 55%, behind 62% last year but ahead of 49% average.

Alfalfa condition rated 1% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 55% good and 8% excellent. Fourth cutting was at 27%, compared to 26% last year and average. Some acreage was being irrigated to improve chances of winter survival.

Winter Wheat seeding advanced to 58%, near 56% last year and 52% average. Emergence was at 23%, compared to 24% last year and 13% average. Some producers were drilling in dry soils while others in the South and East were delaying planting until soil moisture improves. Existing stands were reported as spotty in the West.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range conditions declined with the extended dry conditions, and rated 4% very poor, 14% poor, 32% fair, 44% good, and 6% excellent. Dusty conditions were again reported as causing health problems in cattle. Supplemental feeding was underway in portions of the South, as producers waited for stalk fields to open up.

CROP PROGRESS AS OF September 20, 1998	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS									STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
% Corn Mature	40	62	80	85	96	46	96	94	83	47	27	33	
% Corn Harvested	1	5	7	10	8	5	10	13	8	2	1	2	
% Soybeans Turning Color	na	100	100	98	96	87	100	98	98	75	92	78	
% Soybeans Dropping Leaves	na	66	50	75	79	51	68	86	71	25	55	41	
% Soybeans Harvested	na	1	2	3	6	2	5	6	4	1	2	4	
% Sorghum Coloring	na	99	100	98	100	92	98	100	99	92	93	86	
% Sorghum Mature	na	33	46	52	70	27	49	57	51	29	26	25	
% Sorghum Harvested	na	0	5	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	
% Alfalfa Fourth Cutting	36	16	25	25	29	47	31	25	27	na	26	26	
% Dry Beans Dropping Leaves	91	89	na	100	na	99	na	na	93	73	87	88	
% Dry Beans Harvested	51	31	na	6	na	68	na	na	55	26	62	49	
% Wheat Planted	81	76	13	67	31	48	26	8	58	33	56	52	
% Wheat Emerged	41	41	0	3	1	9	2	0	23	3	24	13	

DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF September 18, 1998

	6.7	6.3	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.0	6.6	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.7
Days suitable	6.7	6.3	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.0	6.6	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.7
Topsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	1	10	1	12	1	31	12	36	11	9	14
- Short	48	47	61	67	67	33	50	48	53	49	38
- Adequate	51	43	38	21	32	36	38	16	36	42	48
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subsoil moisture - Very Short (Percent)	0	7	1	6	0	32	9	22	8	3	14
- Short	29	40	24	55	34	32	52	44	38	31	40
- Adequate	71	53	75	39	66	36	39	34	54	66	46
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

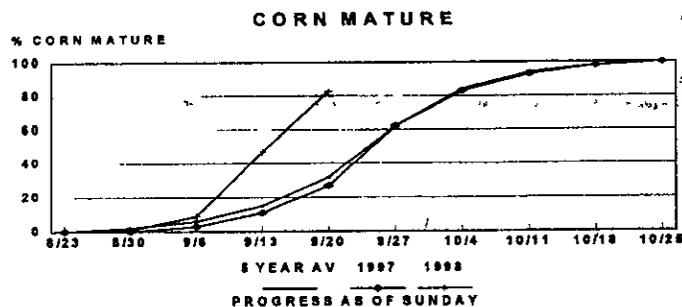
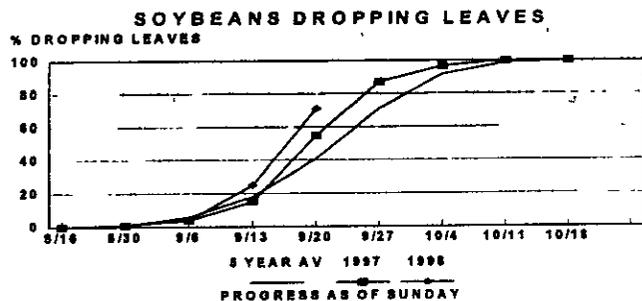
n/a = not available

Periodical Postage
Paid at
Lincoln, Nebraska

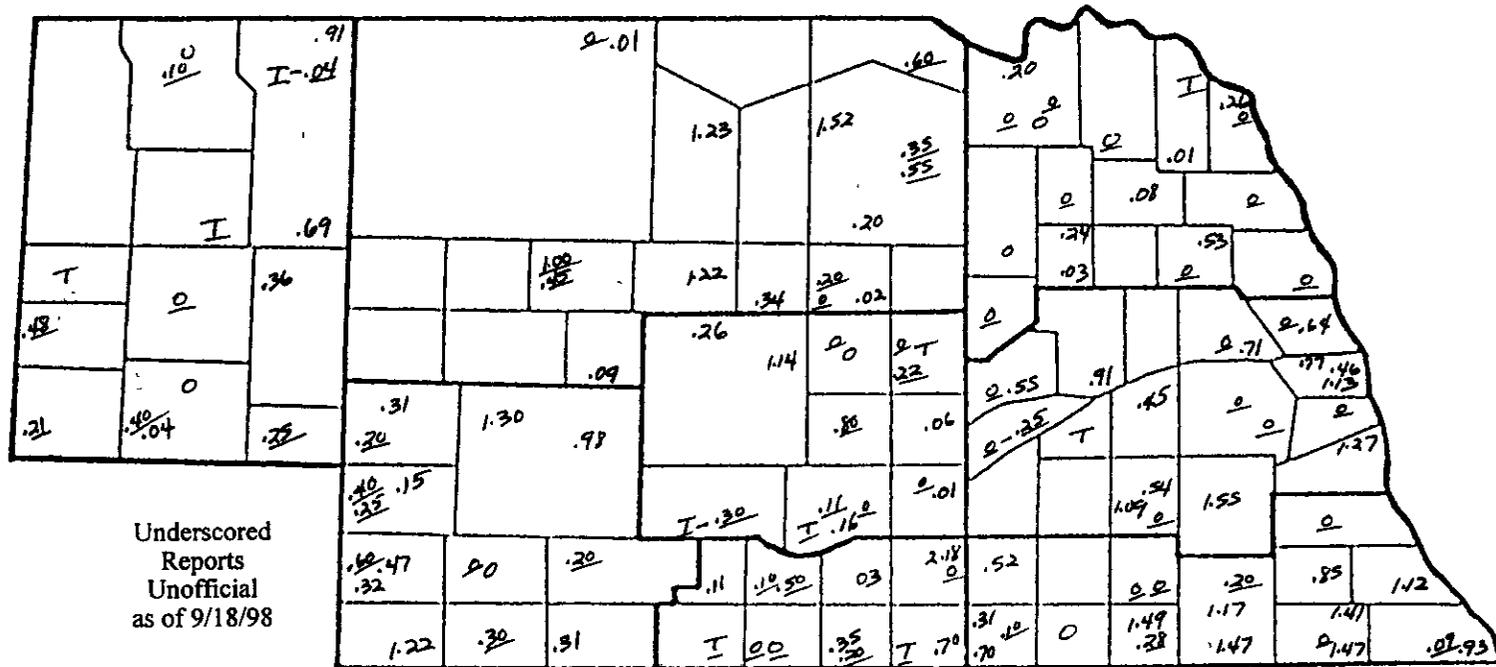
NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS
P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, NE 68501

9/21/98

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 273 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for \$15.00 per year to non-reporters. It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3:30 p.m. CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1998



Underscored Reports Unofficial as of 9/18/98

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 19, 1998

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.29	.58	.14	.23	.77	.56	.67	.95
Total since April 1	12.91	18.93	23.64	17.09	25.96	14.92	16.08	19.31
Normal since April 1	12.75	16.05	18.22	17.72	20.10	14.75	17.83	20.72
Total as % of normal	101%	118%	130%	96%	129%	101%	90%	93%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1998

Station	Temperature				Precipitation Total Inches	Growing Degree Data		
	Extremes		Mean	Departure		Last Week	Since April 15	
	Max	Min			Current		Normal	
NW	Chadron	100	49	73	---	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	95	45	68	+7	116	2583	2422
	Sidney	93	45	68	---	117	2476	2467
NC	Valentine	95	48	71	+10	.01	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	117	2578	2644
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	136	2823	2798
NE	Norfolk	92	50	72	+9	.24	---	---
	Sioux City	96	52	73	+10	.26	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	145	2857
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	145	2880
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	147	2973
CEN	Grand Island	97	53	74	+10	.01	151	3002
	Ord	90	45	70	---	0	139	2902
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	146	2974
EC	Lincoln	93	56	74	+9	1.55	171	3267
	Omaha	92	55	74	+10	.46	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	147	2979
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	154	3150
SW	Imperial	92	50	70	---	.47	---	---
	North Platte	90	48	68	+7	.98	126	2786
	Curtis	---	---	---	---	---	136	2928
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	144	2970
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	167	3353
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	161	3098
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	149	3042

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.