

Issue NE-CW2503, released June 23, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending June 22, 2003, crop conditions continued to improve as warmer temperatures were recorded during the week, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Wheat was rapidly turning color but few fields were ripe. Monitoring of grasshopper populations continued. Storm damage due to hail and heavy rains occurred late Sunday night in Southeastern counties.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged near normals for the week. Precipitation was light in the Panhandle but localized heavy rains of six inches or more were recorded late Sunday night in Thayer county.

Field Crops Report: Corn condition improved and rated 1 percent poor, 16 fair, 57 good, and 26 excellent, above last year and average. Cultivation and hilling for irrigation were active.

Soybean condition improved and rated 1 percent poor, 16 fair, 64 good, and 19 excellent, above last year and average. Ninety-seven percent of the fields had emerged, behind 100 last year and 97 average.

Sorghum condition moved higher and rated 1 percent poor, 26 fair, 64 good, and 9 excellent, above last year and average. Planting was nearing completion with 98 percent seeded, behind the 100 percent last year and 99 average. Eighty-seven percent of the fields had emerged, behind 97 last year and 94 average.

Wheat condition rated 3 percent very poor, 11 poor, 26 fair, 46 good, and 14 excellent, well above last year and the 5 year average. Wheat fields had turned color on 72 percent of the acreage, ahead of 71 last year and 64 average. Only one percent of the acreage was ripe, well behind last year at 22 and average at 16.

Proso millet was 78 percent seeded, behind last year's planting progress at 84 percent complete.

Oat condition improved and rated 1 percent very poor, 1 poor, 14 fair, 52 good, and 32 excellent, well above last year and average. The crop was 91 percent headed, ahead of 87 percent last year and 77 average.

Dry bean planting progressed to 95 percent complete, near last year and average at 96. Seventy-one percent of the fields had emerged, ahead of last year at 62 but behind average at 76.

Alfalfa conditions rated 4 percent poor, 22 fair, 52 good, and 22 excellent, above last year and average. First cutting activities reached 93 percent complete, ahead of 92 last year and 90 average. Second cutting activities were just beginning with 2 percent harvested, behind last year at 7 and average at 6. Insects have slowed regrowth in some areas. Wild hay condition rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 25 fair, 55 good, and 14 excellent.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 11 poor, 31 fair, 44 good, and 11 excellent. Pastures are now providing better grazing potential than last year and the 5 year average.

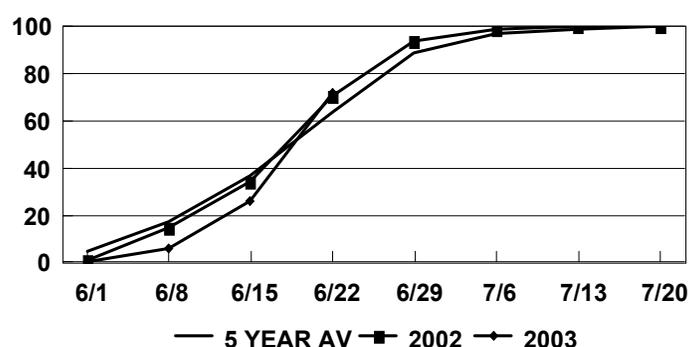
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as June 22, 2003

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
% Soybeans Emerged	1	100	97	97	99	88	100	96	97	86	100	97	
% Sorghum Planted	1	99	99	100	100	95	99	99	98	91	100	99	
% Sorghum Emerged	1	92	73	95	98	61	97	91	87	66	97	94	
% Wheat Turning Color	57	82	62	63	61	84	86	73	72	26	71	64	
% Wheat Ripe	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	22	16	
% Oats Headed	72	97	91	100	89	98	98	98	91	69	87	77	
% Alfalfa 1 st Cutting	87	97	95	89	93	98	98	99	93	82	92	90	
% Alfalfa 2 nd Cutting	0	0	1	1	7	0	5	9	2	0	7	6	
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	5.2	5.3	5.7	4.9	5.0	4.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.5	6.4	5.2	
Topsoil Moisture													
- % Very short	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	1	1	36	16	
- % Short	13	31	26	0	4	21	5	6	18	20	36	22	
- % Adequate	81	67	68	82	87	63	89	85	75	73	28	56	
- % Surplus	6	2	1	18	9	11	6	9	6	6	0	6	
Subsoil Moisture													
- % Very Short	10	4	4	0	3	17	1	1	6	10	35	18	
- % Short	41	33	29	27	20	45	33	26	33	38	38	21	
- % Adequate	48	63	67	72	74	37	66	69	60	52	27	56	
- % Surplus	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	5	

¹ Data unavailable.

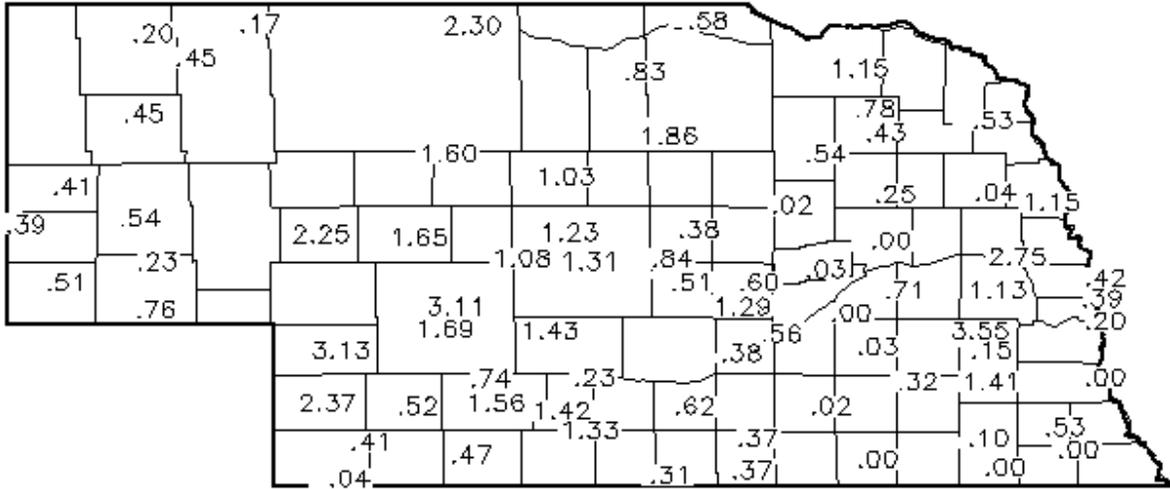
WHEAT

% TURNING COLOR



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending June 22, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - June 22, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.36	1.16	.71	.85	.70	1.30	.71	.12
Total since April 1	6.90	8.65	10.09	11.76	11.13	9.66	10.34	11.68
Normal since April 1	6.91	8.05	9.53	8.96	9.96	7.80	8.68	9.98
Total as % of normal	99%	108%	105%	131%	111%	123%	119%	117%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, June 22, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	84	50	67	-1	117	666	745
	Scottsbluff	88	49	70	+2	137	808	745
	Sidney	89	49	68	0	123	690	764
NC	Ainsworth	87	53	71	+1	144	740	825
	Arthur	83	54	68	-1	129	675	805
	O'Neill	86	53	72	+1	155	723	874
NE	Concord	89	54	72	+1	155	746	899
	Elgin	89	56	73	+1	156	739	901
	West Point	89	56	73	0	159	785	962
C	Grand Island	92	58	74	+1	160	818	918
	Lexington	91	61	74	2	163	841	899
	Ord	88	55	72	0	155	773	907
EC	Lincoln	88	61	74	-1	163	867	1019
	Central City	89	57	74	+1	164	835	934
	Mead	88	57	73	-2	156	831	1003
SW	Champion	91	53	71	+1	142	788	833
	North Platte	88	54	71	+1	148	801	842
	Curtis	89	59	73	+3	158	860	860
SC	Arapahoe	84	49	67	-2	121	691	800
	Minden	93	61	74	+2	165	851	903
	Red Cloud	94	60	74	+2	163	856	931
SE	Beatrice	88	61	74	-1	166	882	1019
	Clay Center	92	60	74	+1	159	815	928
	Nemaha	88	60	74	-1	167	948	1055

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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