

Issue NE-CW3103, released August 4, 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 or e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov). Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending August 3, 2003, seasonal temperatures and limited rainfall aided completion of wheat harvest but put additional stress on dryland crops and pastures, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Dryland crops continued to deteriorate due to stress from the hot, dry conditions. Poorest conditions exist in the southern two tiers of counties where less than one inch of rain was recorded during the month of July. Producer activities included operating irrigation systems, spraying for grasshoppers, and putting up hay.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below to 2 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was scattered across the state with amounts mostly less than 0.60 of an inch, but ranged to over 2 inches in the Panhandle.

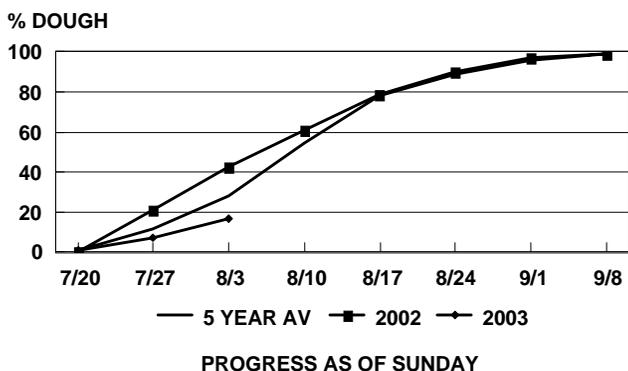
**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending August 3, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	34	27	75	26
Short	38	44	19	29
Adequate	28	29	4	43
Surplus	0	0	2	2
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	32	27	76	28
Short	40	42	18	28
Adequate	28	31	5	43
Surplus	0	0	1	1
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.1

**Field Crops Report:** Corn condition declined again last week and rated 6 percent very poor, 11 poor, 26 fair, 39 good, and 18 excellent, above last year but slightly below average. Irrigated fields rated 76 percent good and excellent while dryland fields declined to 31. Fields were 93 percent silked, near last year at 91 and the same as average. Seventeen percent had reached the dough stage, behind last year at 43 and average at 28.

Soybean condition declined and rated 5 percent very poor, 13 poor, 32 fair, 41 good, and 9 excellent, above last year and near average. Ninety percent of the fields were blooming, behind last year at 94 but the same as average. Fields were setting pods on 37 percent of the acreage, behind 56 last year and 48 average.

**CORN**



Oat harvest for grain progressed to 90 percent combined, behind last year at 96 but ahead of average at 89.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 7 percent very poor, 25 poor, 43 fair, 24 good, and 1 excellent, above last year but below average. Thirty percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year and average at 49.

Wheat harvest was virtually complete with 99 percent of the acreage combined, near last year and average.

Dry bean condition rated 3 percent very poor, 7 poor, 25 fair, 52 good, and 13 excellent. Eighty-seven percent of the fields were blooming, ahead of last year at 75 and average at 79. Fifty-two percent had set pods, ahead of last year at 31 and average at 33.

Alfalfa condition declined and rated 7 percent very poor, 18 poor, 34 fair, 34 good, and 7 excellent, above last year and near average. Third cutting activities were 26 percent harvested, behind last year at 38 but ahead of average at 20. Wild hay condition declined and rated 8 percent very poor, 16 poor, 36 fair, 35 good, and 5 excellent.

**Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 3, 2003**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Silked	93	78	91	93
Corn Dough	17	7	43	28
Soybeans Blooming	90	74	94	90
Soybeans Setting Pods	37	12	56	48
Oats Harvested	90	79	96	89
Sorghum Headed	30	12	49	49
Wheat Harvested	99	95	100	98
Alfalfa 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	26	5	38	20

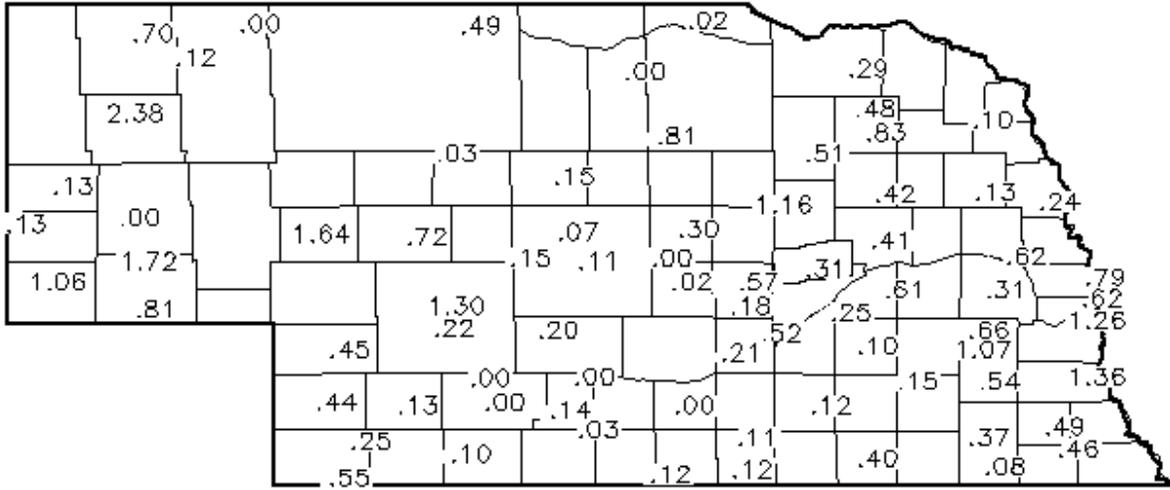
**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 3, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	6	11	26	39	18
Soybean	5	13	32	41	9
Sorghum	7	25	43	24	1
Dry Bean	3	7	25	52	13
Alfalfa	7	18	34	34	7
Wild Hay	8	16	36	35	5

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition declined and rated 16 percent very poor, 26 poor, 33 fair, 23 good, and 2 excellent, above last year but below average.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)*

**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 3, 2003**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 3, 2003**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.87	.26	.53	.23	.53	.32	.09	.36
Total since April 1	9.66	12.42	14.43	13.80	13.75	11.71	12.80	15.22
Normal since April 1	10.30	12.39	14.10	13.38	14.66	11.99	13.15	15.07
Total as % of normal	93%	100%	102%	103%	93%	97%	97%	101%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, August 3, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	95	53	73	+1	150	1514	1627
	Scottsbluff	96	56	75	+2	157	1708	1625
	Sidney	95	55	74	+1	153	1581	1665
NC	Ainsworth	90	58	73	-1	159	1646	1790
	Arthur	90	58	73	-1	157	1573	1751
	O'Neill	92	55	73	-1	157	1634	1871
NE	Concord	87	56	72	-3	150	1662	1917
	Elgin	89	59	73	-2	156	1682	1917
	West Point	90	55	73	-3	159	1760	2024
C	Grand Island	91	56	74	-2	161	1788	1940
	Lexington	96	58	76	+1	167	1861	1907
	Ord	91	55	74	-1	159	1718	1925
EC	Lincoln	90	60	76	-2	174	1946	2123
	Central City	89	56	73	-3	160	1801	1970
	Mead	90	55	73	-4	155	1824	2094
SW	Champion	95	54	74	0	151	1716	1792
	North Platte	90	56	74	-1	157	1742	1811
	Curtis	97	55	76	+1	164	1848	1841
SC	Arapahoe	92	55	72	-2	149	1551	1745
	Minden	94	56	75	0	164	1844	1913
	Red Cloud	94	59	76	+1	171	1891	1962
SE	Beatrice	92	58	75	-3	164	1912	2124
	Clay Center	91	55	73	-2	159	1790	1958
	Nemaha	92	63	76	-2	176	2032	2144

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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