

Issue NE-CW3503, released September 2, 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. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 31, 2003, another week of limited rainfall and continued hot temperatures moved crops toward maturity, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated in short or very short supply over 90 percent of the state. Producer activities included cutting corn for silage, putting up hay, and livestock care.

Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from normals to 6 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was scattered and light with a few exceptions which averaged from 1.0 to 2.0 inches.

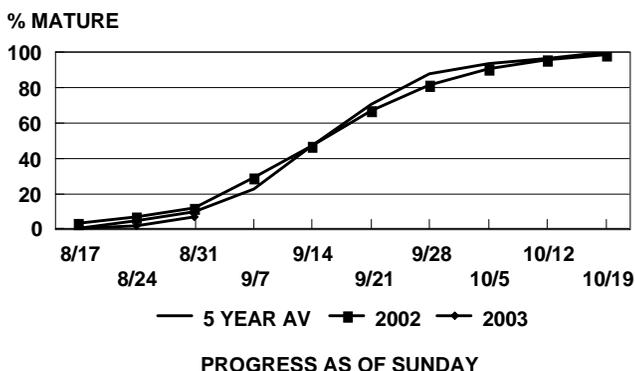
**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending August 31, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	59	61	42	26
Short	31	37	30	33
Adequate	10	2	26	40
Surplus	0	0	2	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	55	63	63	32
Short	38	33	27	29
Adequate	7	4	10	38
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.5	6.5	5.2	6.1

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 16 percent very poor, 15 poor, 22 fair, 32 good, and 15 excellent, above last year but below average. Irrigated fields rated 76 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 10. This compares to 49 and 4, respectively, a year ago. Ninety-five percent had reached the dough stage, behind last year at 96 but the same as average. Sixty-two percent of the fields had reached the dent stage, behind last year at 74 and average at 71. Seven percent of the acreage was mature, also behind last year at 12 and average at 10.

Soybean condition rated 16 percent very poor, 21 poor, 32 fair, 25 good, and 6 excellent, above last year but below average. Fourteen percent of the acreage had turned color, behind last year at 28 and average at 24. Four percent of the crop had dropped leaves, near last year at 6 and average at 7.

CORN



Sorghum condition declined and rated 22 percent very poor, 31 poor, 34 fair, 13 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Ninety percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year at 93 and average at 97. Heads had turned color on 34 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 56 and average at 54.

Dry bean condition rated 3 percent very poor, 4 poor, 26 fair, 54 good, and 13 excellent. Fifty-seven percent of the acreage had turned color, ahead of last year at 36 and average at 50. Twenty-six percent had dropped leaves, ahead of 24 last year and 25 average. Harvest had begun with 5 percent of the acreage cut.

Wheat planting was just beginning with 2 percent sown to date, the same as last year and average.

Alfalfa condition rated 20 percent very poor, 22 poor, 29 fair, 25 good, and 4 excellent, above last year but below average. Third cutting activities were 87 percent harvested, ahead of last year at 84 and average at 85. Fourth cutting activities continued where growth permitted with 5 percent harvested, behind 8 last year and 6 average.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 31, 2003

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Dough	95	87	96	95
Corn Dent	62	42	74	71
Corn Mature	7	2	12	10
Soybeans Turning Color	14	8	28	24
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	4	2	6	7
Sorghum Headed	90	82	93	97
Sorghum Coloring	34	25	56	54
Wheat Planted	2	0	2	2
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	87	74	84	85
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	5	1	8	6

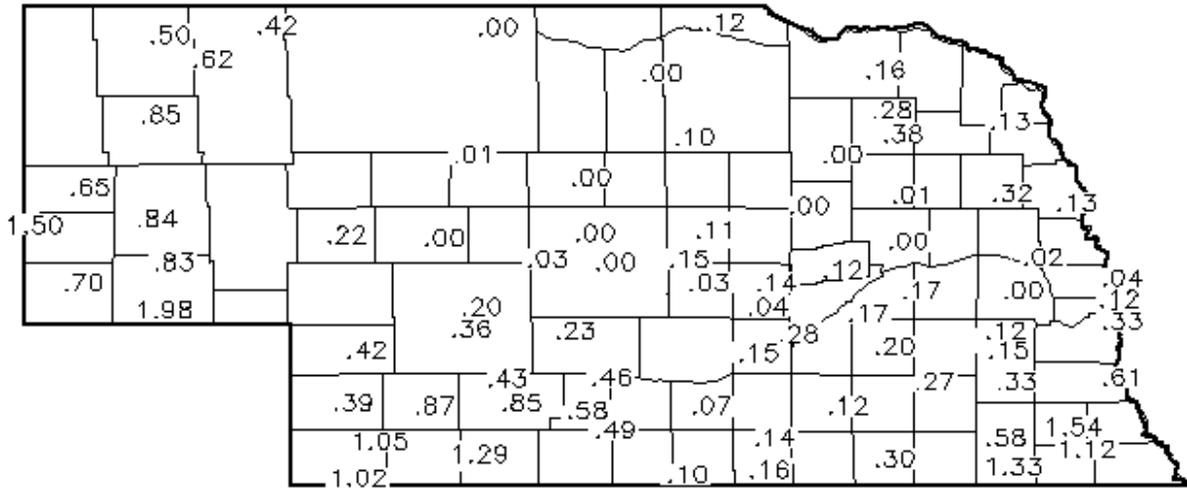
**Crop Condition: Nebraska,
Week Ending August 31, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	16	15	22	32	15
Soybean	16	21	32	25	6
Sorghum	22	31	34	13	0
Dry Bean	3	4	26	54	13
Alfalfa	20	22	29	25	4

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 32 percent very poor, 33 poor, 29 fair, 6 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. In many areas, producers were providing supplemental feed and hauling water.

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

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 31, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 31, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.80	.07	.17	.10	.16	.65	.32	.72
Total since April 1	10.86	13.21	16.10	14.66	15.34	14.17	14.06	18.32
Normal since April 1	11.79	14.64	16.78	15.97	17.84	14.04	15.92	18.58
Total as % of normal	92%	90%	96%	92%	85%	100%	88%	99%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, August 31, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	95	49	68	+1	114	2096	2177
	Scottsbluff	93	54	69	+2	122	2309	2173
	Sidney	94	50	69	+2	125	2172	2230
NC	Ainsworth	94	51	71	+2	136	2283	2396
	Arthur	95	48	69	+1	126	2175	2350
	O'Neill	95	51	71	+2	138	2275	2495
NE	Concord	99	52	73	+4	147	2301	2544
	Elgin	99	51	73	+3	143	2331	2550
	West Point	100	55	75	+4	155	2418	2686
C	Grand Island	97	56	74	+4	152	2451	2580
	Lexington	100	55	75	+5	157	2555	2539
	Ord	100	53	73	+3	143	2365	2562
EC	Lincoln	100	59	77	+5	170	2663	2822
	Central City	96	56	74	+4	150	2459	2618
	Mead	101	52	75	+4	154	2482	2780
SW	Champion	94	50	70	+2	131	2310	2401
	North Platte	93	45	69	0	127	2369	2425
	Curtis	100	53	73	+4	147	2514	2460
SC	Arapahoe	96	47	68	0	118	2130	2343
	Minden	99	56	73	+4	150	2506	2547
	Red Cloud	99	58	74	+4	158	2584	2610
SE	Beatrice	98	59	75	+3	160	2584	2822
	Clay Center	96	57	73	+3	148	2435	2604
	Nemaha	103	60	78	+6	171	2756	2832

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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