

Issue NE-CW3803, released September 22, 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 September 21, 2003, cooler temperatures and the first frost of the season occurred this week in many areas of the western two-thirds of the state, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Recent moisture has benefitted some pastures and late maturing row crops. Harvest has made a limited start and is about a week behind average.

Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from normals to 6 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide with most stations reporting less than one-half inch of rain.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 21, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	24	30	38	24
Short	37	30	38	35
Adequate	38	36	24	39
Surplus	1	4	0	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	41	45	68	34
Short	42	43	25	29
Adequate	17	12	7	36
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	5.8	4.3	6.4	6.0

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 14 percent very poor, 15 poor, 23 fair, 33 good, and 15 excellent, above last year but below average. Irrigated fields rated 75 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 12. This compares to 51 and 8, respectively, a year ago. Ninety-six percent of the fields had reached the dent stage, near last year at 97 and average at 98. Fifty percent of the acreage was mature, behind last year at 67 and average at 71. Harvest was limited across the state and reached 6 percent picked to date, behind last year at 10 and average at 11.

Soybean condition rated 18 percent very poor, 26 poor, 31 fair, 19 good, and 6 excellent, above last year but below average. Eighty-nine percent of the acreage had turned color, behind last year and average at 94. Fifty-four percent of the crop had dropped leaves, behind 65 last year and 64 average. Harvest had begun in several areas of the state with 3 percent combined, behind last year at 5 and average at 6.

Sorghum condition rated 23 percent very poor, 33 poor, 34 fair, 10 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Heads had turned color on 88 percent of the

acreage, behind last year at 89 and average at 94. The crop was mature on 30 percent of the acreage, behind 59 last year and 55 average. Harvest was just underway with 2 percent combined, behind last year at 10 and average at 12.

Dry bean condition rated 6 percent very poor, 12 poor, 28 fair, 44 good, and 10 excellent. Ninety-six percent of the acreage had turned color, ahead of last year at 81 and average at 95. Eighty-three percent had dropped leaves, ahead of last year at 60 but behind average at 84. Harvest had progressed to 38 percent complete, ahead of 32 last year but behind 52 average.

Wheat planting progressed to 65 percent sown, ahead of last year and average at 57. Twenty-six percent had emerged, behind last year at 28 but ahead of average at 21.

Proso millet harvest advanced to 68 percent complete, ahead of 50 last year.

Alfalfa condition rated 16 percent very poor, 22 poor, 35 fair, 24 good, and 3 excellent, above last year but below average. Fourth cutting activities continued where growth permitted with 51 percent harvested, behind 60 last year but ahead of 48 average.

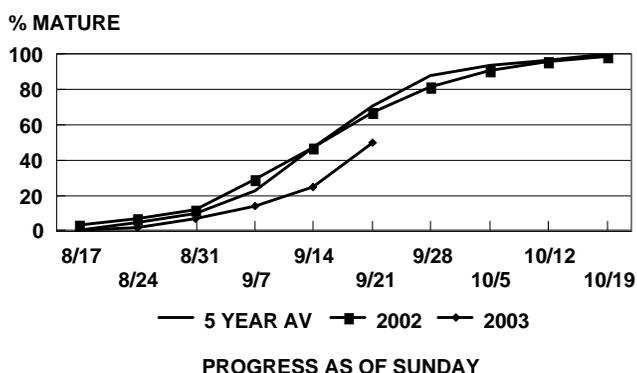
**Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending
September 21, 2003**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Dent	96	89	97	98
Corn Mature	50	25	67	71
Corn Harvested	6	2	10	11
Soybeans Turning Color	89	65	94	94
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	54	19	65	64
Soybeans Harvested	3	0	5	6
Sorghum Coloring	88	63	89	94
Sorghum Mature	30	12	59	55
Sorghum Harvested	2	0	10	12
Wheat Planted	65	31	57	57
Wheat Emerged	26	0	28	21
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	51	24	60	48

**Crop Condition: Nebraska,
Week Ending September 21, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	14	15	23	33	15
Soybean	18	26	31	19	6
Sorghum	23	33	34	10	0
Dry Bean	6	12	28	44	10
Alfalfa	16	22	35	24	3

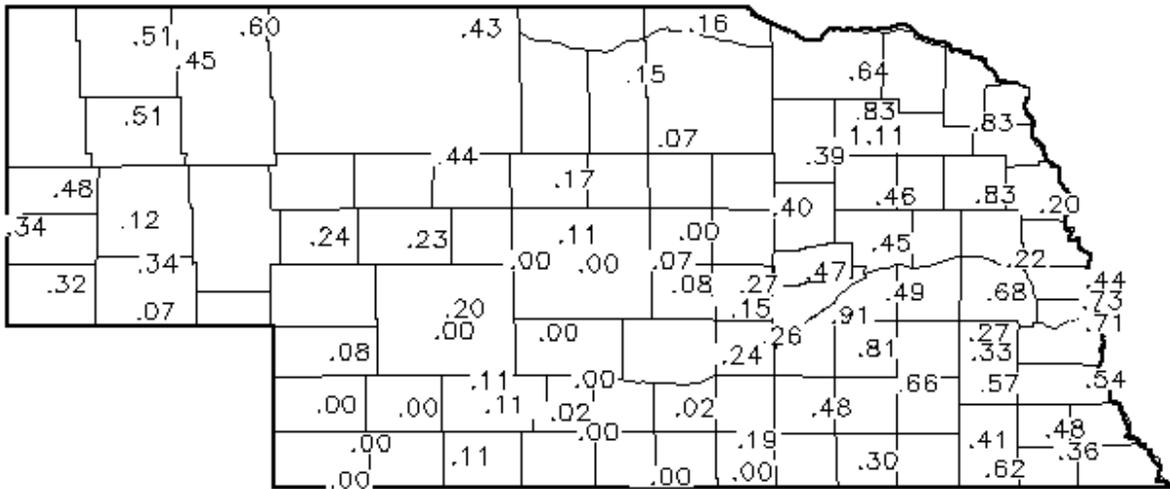
CORN



Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 30 percent very poor, 31 poor, 32 fair, 7 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. In many areas, producers continued to provide supplemental feed while awaiting stock fields to become available.

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 September 21, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - September 21, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.39	.39	.57	.12	.58	.06	.04	.46
Total since April 1	11.97	14.06	20.37	16.07	19.15	14.95	15.87	21.94
Normal since April 1	12.67	16.03	18.57	17.64	20.12	15.15	17.65	21.07
Total as % of normal	94%	88%	109%	91%	95%	98%	90%	104%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, September 21, 2003**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	88	32	55	-4	77	2373	2473
	Scottsbluff	87	31	55	-4	81	2596	2468
	Sidney	89	32	56	-3	83	2464	2528
NC	Ainsworth	93	36	60	-1	88	2626	2701
	Arthur	90	32	57	-4	86	2476	2656
	O'Neill	88	29	59	-3	90	2608	2810
NE	Concord	84	34	59	-3	84	2598	2861
	Elgin	86	35	59	-3	86	2643	2872
	West Point	87	34	61	-3	96	2733	3034
C	Grand Island	93	34	61	-2	94	2776	2912
	Lexington	94	36	62	0	98	2909	2865
	Ord	86	31	59	-3	92	2690	2889
EC	Lincoln	90	38	65	0	113	3023	3201
	Central City	90	33	61	-2	96	2782	2954
	Mead	91	36	63	-2	111	2828	3149
SW	Champion	91	31	59	-3	99	2630	2715
	North Platte	88	29	59	-3	97	2699	2739
	Curtis	94	28	60	-2	100	2857	2779
SC	Arapahoe	91	29	55	-6	88	2435	2647
	Minden	93	33	61	-2	95	2838	2875
	Red Cloud	90	34	63	0	106	2938	2947
SE	Beatrice	89	36	63	-2	108	2928	3202
	Clay Center	88	32	59	-4	88	2745	2939
	Nemaha	88	39	66	0	120	3142	3222

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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