

Issue NE-CW4003, released October 6, 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 October 5, 2003, fall harvest continued to lag the normal pace as producers waited for a hard freeze to aid drydown, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. However, fall seeding of wheat was nearing completion ahead of normal. Cattle are being moved to stalk fields as quickly as possible after harvest because of poor pasture conditions.

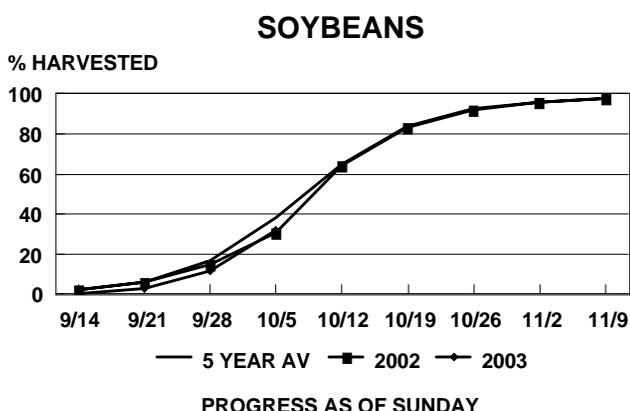
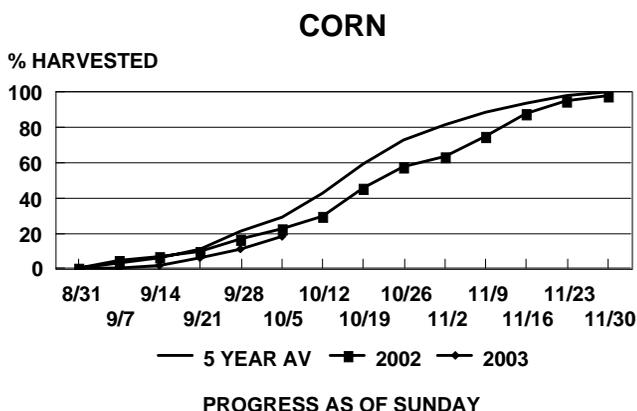
**Weather Summary:** Temperatures ranged from 2 to 8 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was scattered and very light over most of the state.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending October 5, 2003**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	32	30	19	20
Short	35	36	36	33
Adequate	33	33	44	46
Surplus	0	1	1	1
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	44	44	56	33
Short	43	41	33	31
Adequate	13	15	12	36
Surplus	0	0	0	0
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.5	6.6	4.5	5.7

**Field Crops Report:** Corn condition rated 14 percent very poor, 13 poor, 23 fair, 33 good, and 17 excellent. Irrigated fields rated 76 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 15. This compares to 52 and 8, respectively, a year ago. Eighty-five percent of the acreage was mature, behind last year at 91 and average at 94. Harvest reached 18 percent picked to date, about a week behind last year at 23 and average at 31.

Soybean condition rated 13 percent very poor, 25 poor, 35 fair, 21 good, and 6 excellent. Ninety-three percent of



the crop had dropped leaves, behind 94 last year and 97 average. Harvest progressed to 32 percent complete, ahead of last year at 31 but behind average at 38.

Sorghum condition improved and rated 19 percent very poor, 31 poor, 35 fair, 14 good, and 1 excellent. The crop was mature on 67 percent of the acreage, behind 88 last year and 89 average. Harvest was 13 percent completed, although nearly 2 weeks behind last year at 30 and average at 28.

Dry bean harvest progressed to 83 percent complete, ahead of 73 last year but the same as average.

Wheat planting progressed to 93 percent sown, ahead of last year and average at 90. Seventy-one percent had emerged, ahead of last year at 69 and average at 65.

Proso millet harvest advanced to 88 percent complete, ahead of 72 last year.

Alfalfa condition rated 15 percent very poor, 23 poor, 34 fair, 25 good, and 3 excellent. Fourth cutting activities continued where growth permitted with 86 percent harvested, ahead of both last year at 83 and average at 80.

**Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending  
October 5, 2003**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Mature	85	73	91	94
Corn Harvested	18	11	23	31
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	93	78	94	97
Soybeans Harvested	32	12	31	38
Sorghum Mature	67	51	88	89
Sorghum Harvested	13	7	30	28
Wheat Planted	93	82	90	90
Wheat Emerged	71	50	69	65
Alfalfa 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	86	78	83	80

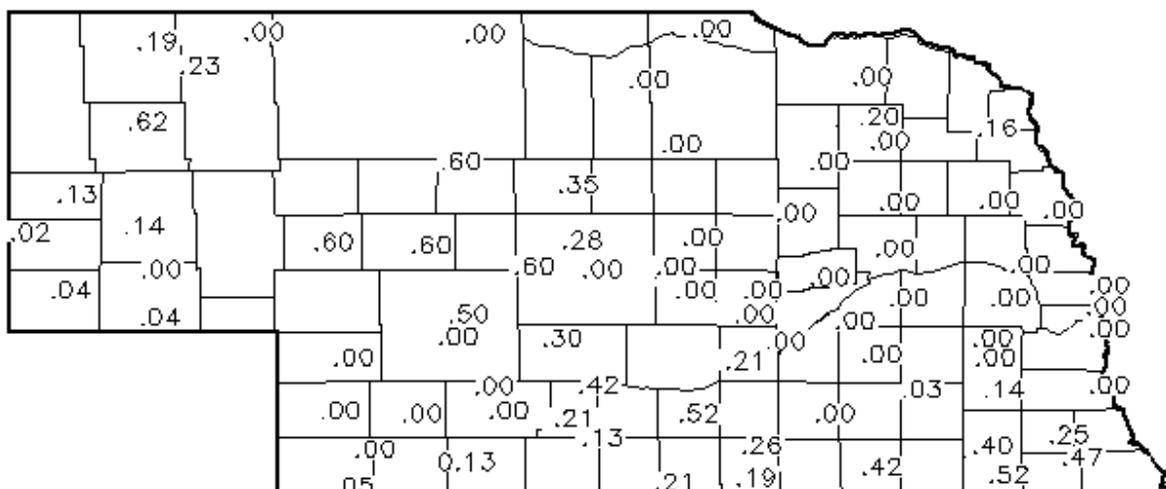
**Crop Condition: Nebraska,  
Week Ending October 5, 2003**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	14	13	23	33	17
Soybean	13	25	35	21	6
Sorghum	19	31	35	14	1
Alfalfa	15	23	34	25	3

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition rated 30 percent very poor, 34 poor, 27 fair, 9 good, and 0 excellent, above last year but below average. Producers have begun to move cattle to stalk fields as quickly as they become available. Supplemental feeding is occurring.

*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 October 5, 2003**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - October 5, 2003**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.14	.09	.03	.12	.01	.09	.26	.30
Total since April 1	12.17	13.87	20.55	16.19	19.22	15.05	16.22	22.07
Normal since April 1	13.17	16.84	19.65	18.58	21.46	15.79	18.63	22.53
Total as % of normal	92%	82%	104%	87%	89%	94%	87%	98%

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, October 5, 2003**

Station	Temperature			
	Extremes		Average	Departure
	High	Low		
NW Alliance	79	32	51	-3
Scottsbluff	79	28	51	-3
Sidney	79	28	50	-4
NC Ainsworth	84	33	54	-2
Arthur	78	31	52	-4
O'Neill	84	28	52	-4
NE Concord	84	28	52	-5
Elgin	84	32	54	-3
West Point	85	27	52	-7
C Grand Island	80	33	54	-4
Lexington	79	34	54	-4
Ord	83	30	52	-5
EC Lincoln	83	34	55	-5
Central City	82	31	53	-5
Mead	84	26	52	-8
SW Champion	79	28	49	-7
North Platte	80	32	52	-4
Curtis	80	30	52	-5
SC Arapahoe	79	28	50	-6
Minden	79	35	53	-4
Red Cloud	79	36	54	-4
SE Beatrice	80	32	54	-6
Clay Center	80	32	53	-5
Nemaha	85	36	56	-4

Source: High Plains Climate Center.