

Issue NE-CW1704, released April 26, 2004, 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 April 25, 2004, the first significant precipitation of the month occurred across much of Nebraska, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. As a result, topsoil moisture rated adequate in nearly two-thirds of the State. Corn planting activities were ahead of normal with southeastern producers near 50 percent complete. Other producer activities included livestock care, spring tillage, and fertilizer application.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from near normals to 6 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation occurred across the State with amounts ranging from .30 of an inch to 2.75 inches. Heaviest amounts were along a wide diagonal band from southwest Nebraska through the northeast.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending April 25, 2004**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	9	17	5	11
Short	29	47	18	20
Adequate	61	36	75	65
Surplus	1	0	2	4
Subsoil				
Very Short	28	41	35	21
Short	42	34	44	33
Adequate	29	25	21	45
Surplus	1	0	0	1
Days Suitable	4.5	6.3	3.3	4.4

Field Crops Report: Corn planting jumped to 22 percent complete, well ahead of 11 percent last year and average at 14. With cool conditions during the week, only 1 percent of the crop was emerged, same as last year and average.

Wheat condition rated 9 percent very poor, 16 poor, 36 fair, 37 good, and 2 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 32 percent jointed, ahead of last year at 29 and average at 23.

The first fields of soybeans were planted, however, producers attentions were focused on corn.

Oat seeding progressed to 88 percent complete, ahead of last year and average at 84. Nearly half, 48 percent, was emerged, ahead of 45 percent last year and just behind 50 percent average.

Sugar beet planting slowed, but was 60 percent complete by week's end. A year ago, 50 percent had been planted.

Alfalfa conditions improved and rated 3 percent very poor, 10 poor, 37 fair, 42 good, and 8 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 25, 2004

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	22	7	11	14
Corn Emerged	1	0	1	1
Oats Planted	88	84	84	84
Oats Emerged	48	29	45	50
Soybeans Planted	1	0	1	1
Wheat Jointed	32	15	29	23

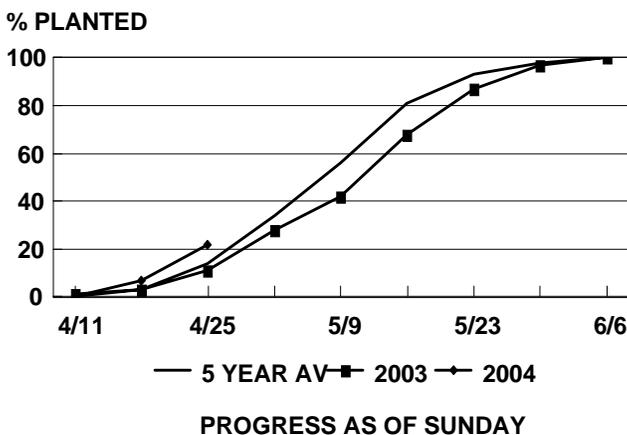
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 25, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	3	10	37	42	8
Wheat	9	16	36	37	2

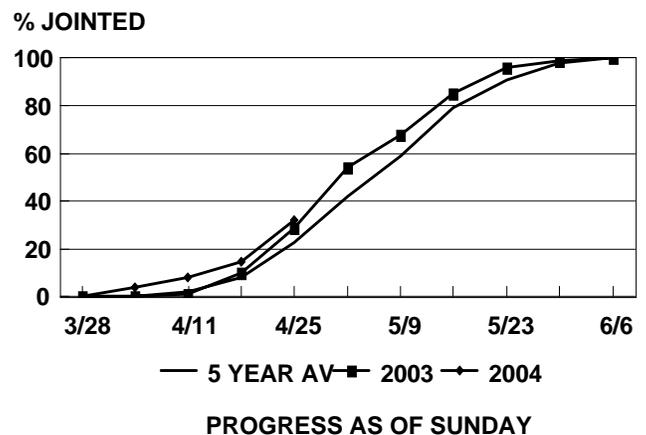
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 10 percent very poor, 22 poor, 37 fair, 29 good, and 2 excellent. This condition was better than a year ago but below average. Cattle and calf conditions rated 1 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 72 good, and 18 excellent. Spring calving was 94 percent complete with producers beginning to turn cattle onto pastures.

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

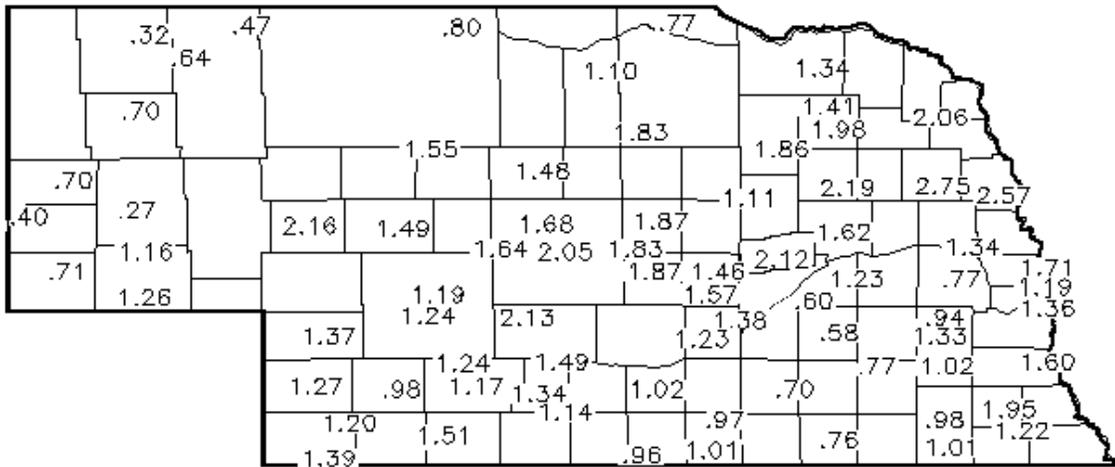
CORN



WHEAT



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 25, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 25, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.78	1.24	2.26	1.63	1.21	1.34	1.10	1.11
Total since April 1	1.43	1.47	2.35	1.96	1.31	2.03	1.68	1.33
Normal since April 1	1.44	1.71	2.07	1.97	2.21	1.53	1.68	2.26
Total as % of normal	100%	84%	115%	100%	59%	134%	103%	58%

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

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 25, 2004

Station	Temperature				
	Extremes		Average	Departure	
	High	Low			
NW	Alliance	64	29	44	-5
	Scottsbluff	66	29	46	-3
	Sidney	28	64	43	-6
NC	Ainsworth	67	33	48	-3
	Arthur	64	31	46	-5
	O'Neill	67	37	50	-3
NE	Concord	67	39	50	-3
	Elgin	70	37	50	-3
	West Point	71	41	52	-2
C	Grand Island	73	36	52	-1
	Lexington	70	37	51	-2
	Ord	71	36	50	-3
EC	Lincoln	76	46	57	1
	Central City	75	39	53	-1
	Mead	75	42	55	0
SW	Champion	67	31	47	-5
	North Platte	69	34	49	-3
	Curtis	69	34	50	-2
SC	Arapahoe	65	29	45	-6
	Minden	70	36	52	-1
	Red Cloud	74	35	53	-1
SE	Beatrice	76	43	56	1
	Clay Center	74	36	53	-1
	Nemaha	75	45	58	1

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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