

Issue NE-CW3204, released August 9, 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 August 8, 2004, growing crops continued to exhibit development near or ahead of the average pace while showing conditions that surpass last year and average marks, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Irrigation systems were in operation and dryland producers are looking for additional rainfall. Producer activities included finishing wheat and oat harvest and putting up hay.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged from 5 degrees below normals to 2 degrees above normals. Precipitation was statewide with amounts ranging from traces to over one inch. Locally, heavier rains were reported at both ends of the state.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending August 8, 2004

| | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Topsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 16 | 11 | 38 | 35 |
| Short | 32 | 28 | 35 | 31 |
| Adequate | 49 | 58 | 27 | 33 |
| Surplus | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Subsoil | | | | |
| Very Short | 31 | 26 | 38 | 37 |
| Short | 31 | 32 | 38 | 32 |
| Adequate | 38 | 42 | 24 | 31 |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Days Suitable | 6.3 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 6.3 |

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 14 fair, 49 good, and 33 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 88 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 75. This compares to 76 and 23, respectively, a year ago. Forty-five percent of the acreage had reached the dough stage, ahead of last year at 33 and the same as average. Four percent had dented, ahead of last year at 3 but behind average at 9.

Soybeans condition rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 19 fair, 53 good, and 23 excellent, above last year and average. Ninety-five percent of the acreage had bloomed, ahead of last year at 93 and the same as average. Seventy percent had set pods, ahead of last year at 60 and average at 63.

Sorghum condition rated 0 percent very poor, 3 poor, 27 fair, 52 good, and 18 excellent, above last year and average. Fifty-eight percent had headed out, ahead of last year at 54 but behind average at 61. Fields had begun to show color in the East Central and Southeast Districts, a few days behind average.

Wheat harvest was very nearly complete.

Oat harvest progressed to 91 percent cut, behind last year at 93 and average at 94.

Dry beans condition rated 1 percent very poor, 9 poor, 22 fair, 51 good, and 17 excellent. Seventy-one percent of the acreage had bloomed, behind last year at 90 and average at 92. Twenty-eight percent had set pods, behind last year at 57 and average at 59.

Alfalfa conditions rated 6 percent very poor, 17 poor, 25 fair, 38 good, and 14 excellent, above last year and average. Third cutting activities progressed to 38 percent harvested, behind last year at 43 but ahead of average at 37. Wild hay condition rated 9 percent very poor, 13 poor, 29 fair, 41 good, and 8 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 8, 2004

| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | Average |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting | 38 | 10 | 43 | 37 |
| Corn Dough | 45 | 16 | 33 | 45 |
| Corn Dent | 4 | 0 | 3 | 9 |
| Oats Harvested | 91 | 85 | 93 | 94 |
| Sorghum Headed | 58 | 28 | 54 | 61 |
| Sorghum Turning Color | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 95 | 85 | 93 | 95 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 70 | 46 | 60 | 63 |
| Wheat Harvested | 99 | 97 | 100 | 100 |

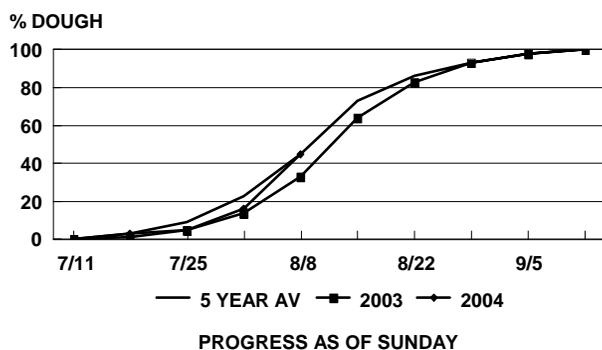
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 8, 2004

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Alfalfa | 6 | 17 | 25 | 38 | 14 |
| Corn | 1 | 3 | 14 | 49 | 33 |
| Sorghum | 0 | 3 | 27 | 52 | 18 |
| Soybeans | 1 | 4 | 19 | 53 | 23 |

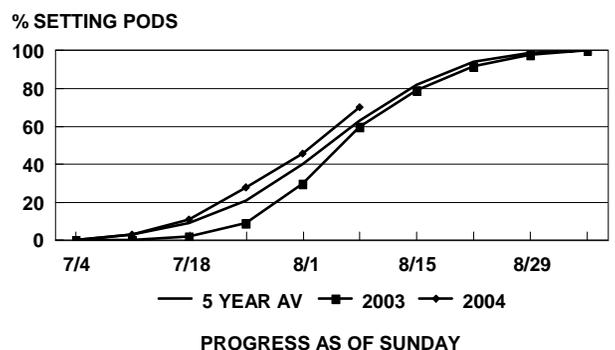
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 10 percent very poor, 17 poor, 31 fair, 35 good, and 7 excellent, above a year ago and average.

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. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm>.

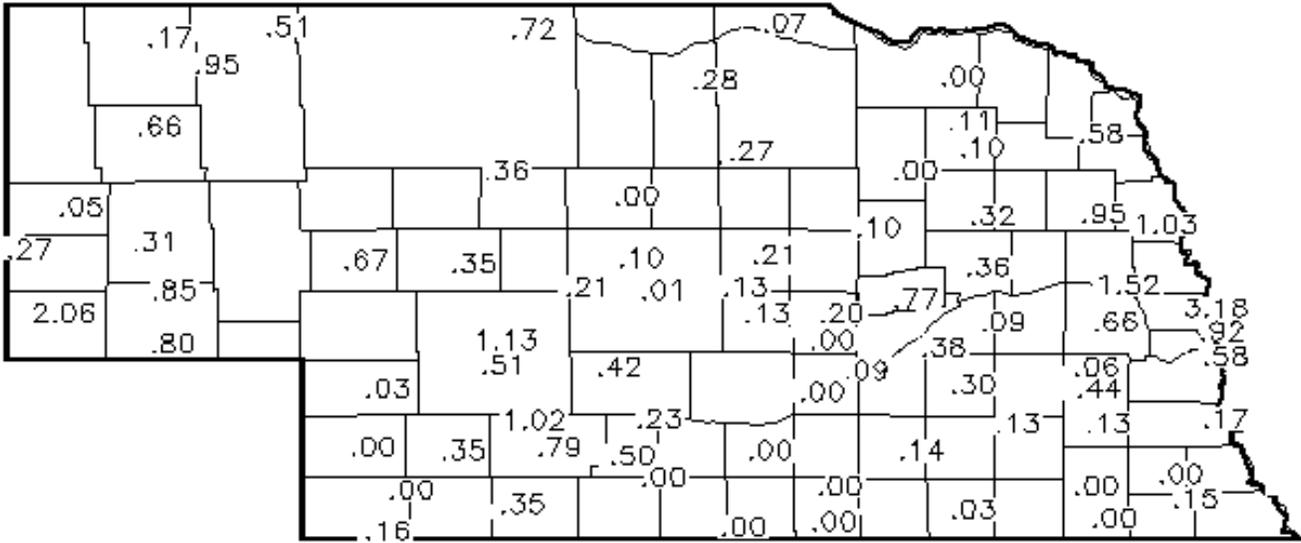
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 8, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 8, 2004

| Item | NW | NC | NE | CEN | EC | SW | SC | SE |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total past week | .75 | .32 | .34 | .11 | .65 | .40 | .08 | .06 |
| Total since April 1 | 9.20 | 12.57 | 15.41 | 12.74 | 13.52 | 14.84 | 13.29 | 14.24 |
| Normal since April 1 | 10.58 | 12.81 | 14.57 | 13.85 | 15.21 | 12.37 | 13.64 | 15.67 |
| Total as % of normal | 86% | 98% | 105% | 92% | 88% | 119% | 98% | 90% |

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

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, August 8, 2004**

| Station | Temperature | | | | Growing Degree Days Since April 15 | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| | Extremes | | Average | Departure | Last Week | Current | Normal |
| | High | Low | | | | | |
| NW Alliance | 95 | 55 | 73 | +1 | 150 | 1542 | 1759 |
| Scottsbluff | 95 | 58 | 74 | +2 | 157 | 1676 | 1757 |
| Sidney | 94 | 57 | 73 | 0 | 151 | 1599 | 1812 |
| NC Ainsworth | 98 | 55 | 74 | -1 | 160 | 1725 | 2007 |
| Arthur | 96 | 53 | 71 | -3 | 141 | 1606 | 1920 |
| O'Neill | 94 | 54 | 73 | -2 | 157 | 1736 | 2049 |
| NE Concord | 90 | 56 | 71 | -5 | 141 | 1762 | 2116 |
| Elgin | 90 | 54 | 72 | -3 | 149 | 1778 | 2083 |
| West Point | 89 | 56 | 72 | -4 | 153 | 1892 | 2200 |
| C Grand Island | 95 | 57 | 73 | -2 | 153 | 1952 | 2074 |
| Lexington | 98 | 59 | 75 | 0 | 165 | 2020 | 2029 |
| Ord | 94 | 54 | 73 | -2 | 152 | 1860 | 2054 |
| EC Lincoln | 100 | 61 | 76 | -1 | 172 | 2160 | 2274 |
| Central City | 97 | 57 | 72 | -3 | 150 | 1969 | 2107 |
| Mead | 95 | 57 | 74 | -3 | 160 | 2027 | 2254 |
| SW Champion | 96 | 54 | 74 | 0 | 156 | 1793 | 1946 |
| North Platte | 100 | 55 | 72 | -2 | 148 | 1859 | 1977 |
| Curtis | 98 | 54 | 75 | -2 | 146 | 1938 | 1982 |
| SC Arapahoe | 97 | 54 | 71 | -3 | 140 | 1616 | 1916 |
| Minden | 96 | 56 | 74 | -1 | 156 | 1995 | 2054 |
| Red Cloud | 103 | 56 | 76 | +1 | 164 | 2099 | 2096 |
| SE Beatrice | 98 | 54 | 75 | -2 | 165 | 2136 | 2274 |
| Clay Center | 96 | 55 | 73 | -2 | 151 | 1959 | 2094 |
| Nemaha | 94 | 56 | 75 | -2 | 165 | 2210 | 2287 |

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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