



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 1, 2011, spring planting progress was slow to advance due to cool temperatures and additional rainfall, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Field activities did however pick up at the end of the week as strong winds dried soils. For the week, only 3.5 days were considered suitable for fieldwork. Soil temperatures did increase last week but with most temperatures still in the low 50s, the corn crop was slow to emerge. Cool season grasses, alfalfa and winter wheat showed some improvement during the week.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged 6 degrees below normal across the state. High temperatures ranged from the mid 80's in the southern half of Nebraska to lows below freezing in the Panhandle and Southwest District. The highest amount of precipitation of near one inch fell in the southern Panhandle. Lesser accumulations fell across the remainder of the state. For the month of April, all districts averaged above normal precipitation.

Field Crops Report: Corn planting advanced slowly to 15 percent complete, well behind last year's 44 and one week behind 35 average. The first corn plants have emerged at 1 percent compared to 3 last year and 2 average.

Soybean planting was just under way and limited to 1 percent complete, behind 7 last year and 4 average.

Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 13 poor, 39 fair, 41 good, and 6 excellent, below last year's 74 percent good to excellent and 63 average. Wheat jointed was 26 percent, behind last year's 28 and 33 average.

Oats planted were at 81 percent, behind last year's 92 and 90 average. Oats emerged was at 46 percent, behind 63 last year and 54 average.

Alfalfa rated 0 percent very poor, 3 poor, 20 fair, 71 good, and 6 excellent, below last year's 88 percent good to excellent.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending May 1, 2011**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	0	1	0	2
Short	10	9	3	10
Adequate	86	80	92	79
Surplus	4	10	5	9
Subsoil				
Very Short	2	2	0	6
Short	22	24	2	16
Adequate	74	70	93	74
Surplus	2	4	5	4
Days Suitable	3.5	1.9	4.5	3.8

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending May 1, 2011

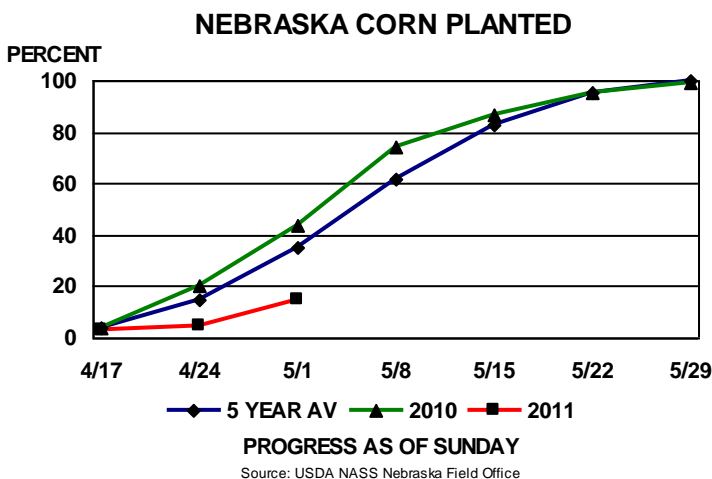
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	15	5	44	35
Corn Emerged	1		3	2
Oats Planted	81	68	92	90
Oats Emerged	46	23	63	54
Soybeans Planted	1		7	4
Wheat Jointed	26	10	28	33

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 1, 2011

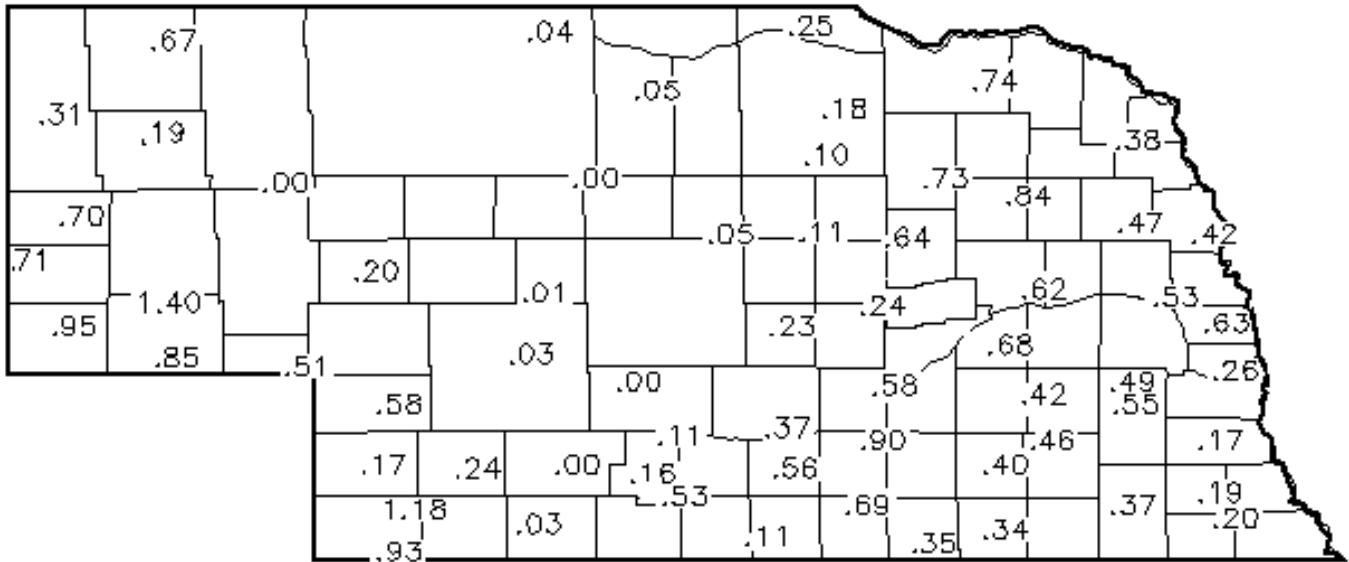
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	0	3	20	71	6
Wheat	1	13	39	41	6

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Spring calving was 94 percent complete. Calf losses rated 10 percent below average, 88 average, and 2 above average. Pasture and range conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 5 poor, 26 fair, 64 good, and 5 excellent, well below last year's 84 good to excellent but near 68 average.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/NEcurrent.asp



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. May 1, 2011



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 25 – May 1, 2011

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.65	.13	.64	.42	.58	.33	.56	.32
Total since April 1	2.48	2.42	3.53	3.13	3.47	2.38	3.29	3.24
Normal since April 1	1.81	2.23	2.71	2.58	2.78	1.97	4.24	2.90
Total as % of normal	138%	108%	130%	121%	124%	121%	145%	110%

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 1, 2011

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	67	27	44	-9	24	47	119
	Scottsbluff	70	24	45	-7	34	63	119
	Sidney	70	25	44	-10	29	54	126
NC	Ainsworth	78	33	49	-6	13	47	131
	Arthur	76	28	46	-8	20	49	131
	O'Neill	77	30	49	-7	13	49	133
NE	Concord	74	32	49	-7	13	49	134
	Elgin	76	34	49	-7	14	46	135
	West Point	78	34	51	-6	16	56	138
C	Grand Island	80	31	50	-5	24	70	135
	Lexington	82	29	48	-7	29	74	134
	Ord	78	30	49	-6	25	69	134
EC	Central City	80	32	50	-6	29	74	136
	Lincoln	80	40	54	-4	33	84	142
	Mead	80	37	53	-4	28	78	142
SW	Champion	79	25	46	-9	36	74	132
	Dickens	79	27	47	-7	25	64	133
	McCook	85	29	50	-5	45	96	134
SC	Minden	83	31	50	-5	35	84	135
	Red Cloud	80	31	51	-5	41	91	136
	Smithfield	82	31	48	-7	24	66	134
SE	Beatrice	78	37	52	-6	41	90	142
	Clay Center	79	32	50	-6	32	79	136
	Nemaha	84	42	56	-1	49	108	144

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office