7/20/92

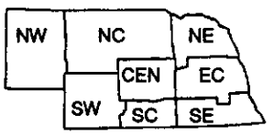
NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For Week Ending July 19, 1992

Issue: 19-92 | Phone: (402) 437-5541 | P.O. Box 81069
Released: 7/20/92 - 3:00 p.m. | Location: 273 Federal Bldg. | Lincoln, NE 68501

National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
and U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources--UN-L

WEATHER

Temperatures averaged from five to eight degrees below normals. Precipitation amounts varied from a tenth of an inch in the northeast up to 1.70 inches in the east central portion of the State.

GENERAL

Wet weather conditions once again delayed wheat harvest across the State, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Fieldwork activities were limited due to storm systems bringing severe weather in the form of hail and locally heavy rainfall. Spring crops "caught up" some in their growth development last week, however, are still about one week behind normal at this time. Although rainfall since mid-June has delayed wheat harvest, hindered row crop development, and caused localized flooding, only the East Central District has surpassed the normal precipitation total (April 1 to current), owing to the dry early spring. Western dry bean and sugar beet producers were assessing the benefit and/or loss from recent heavy rains and damaging hail. Many irrigators in central and western areas were just laying out irrigation pipes, much later than normal due to good early July rains. Timely rains will continue to be needed throughout the summer growing season for all crops and pasturelands.

CROPS

Wheat condition was rated at 14% very poor, 25% poor, 45% fair, and 16% good. Harvest was underway in all districts last week with 49% combined as of Sunday. This compares with 87% last year and 86% for the 5-year average. Although harvest made progress in all parts of the State, we remain 11 days behind the average statewide. Weed growth in unharvested fields continues to cause problems. Some have used chemical applications for control, some may have to abandon parts of fields, and still others may have to settle for a higher moisture test and lower test weights.

CROPS (Cont.)

Corn condition was rated at 3% poor, 17% fair, 52% good, and 28% excellent. The crop was growing rapidly, but behind normal development with only 27% silking to date. This compares with last year at 69% and the average at 52%.

Soybean condition was rated at 5% fair, 69% good, and 26% excellent. Cultivation and chemical weed control continued where surface conditions permitted. Crop development also made good progress but remained about one week behind normal with only 32% in the blooming stage to date.

Sorghum condition was rated at 1% poor, 10% fair, 62% good, and 27% excellent. Cultivation activities were active where surface conditions permitted.

Alfalfa condition was rated at 1% poor, 21% fair, 70% good, and 8% excellent. Second cutting activities were delayed in some areas by rains again this past week. Although 69% of the crop has been cut, and is near normal, some fields have had mown hay rained upon several times or have delayed cutting past best harvest dates. Wild hay condition was rated at 1% poor, 47% fair, 47% good, and 5% excellent. Haying remained as active as possible.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range condition was rated at 94% of normal and compares with 82% of normal last year at this time. Many areas reported the best pasture condition in years. Grass growth was providing more than adequate grazing, although fly problems have caused cattle to bunch up and graze little in some parts of the Southwest District.

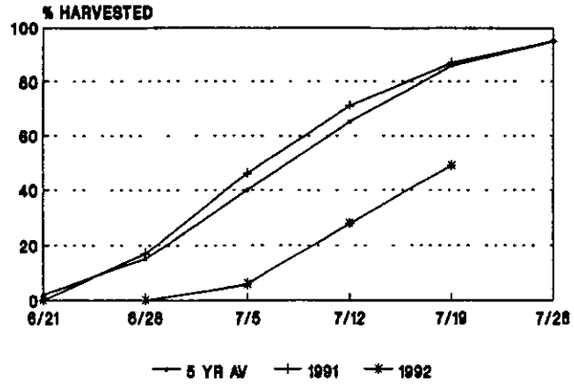
FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF JULY 19, 1992	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% wheat ripe	92	100	97	100	100	100	100	100	97	83	100	97
% wheat harvested	25	51	18	28	20	86	77	35	49	28	87	86
% oats harvested	1	2	19	23	11	34	32	6	16	4	78	70
% corn silked	10	3	13	24	37	9	32	64	27	4	69	52
% soybeans blooming	0	14	26	46	24	14	9	54	32	9	57	54
% alfalfa second cutting	23	58	73	86	62	100	95	74	69	44	71	74
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF JULY 17, 1992												
Days suitable	4 3	5.5	4.0	6.6	2 5	3.6	3.5	1 9	3 6	3.9	6.9	
Topsoil moisture - Short	7	40	0	10	0	0	0	0	6	13	83	
(Percent) - Adequate	86	50	88	90	82	100	92	56	79	80	17	
- Surplus	7	10	12	0	18	0	8	44	15	7	0	
Subsoil moisture - Short	21	10	0	10	6	13	0	6	8	14	48	
(Percent) - Adequate	79	90	94	90	88	87	100	83	88	85	52	
- Surplus	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	11	4	1	0	

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 273 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508 Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for $15.00 per year to non-reporters POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P O Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS
P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, NE 68501

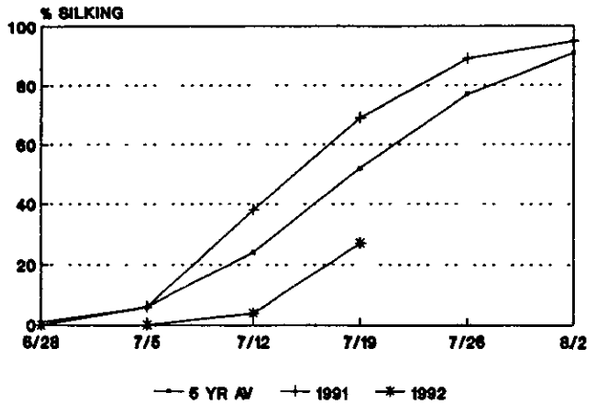
Second Class Postage
Paid at
Lincoln, Nebraska

WINTER WHEAT
HARVESTED FOR ALL PURPOSES



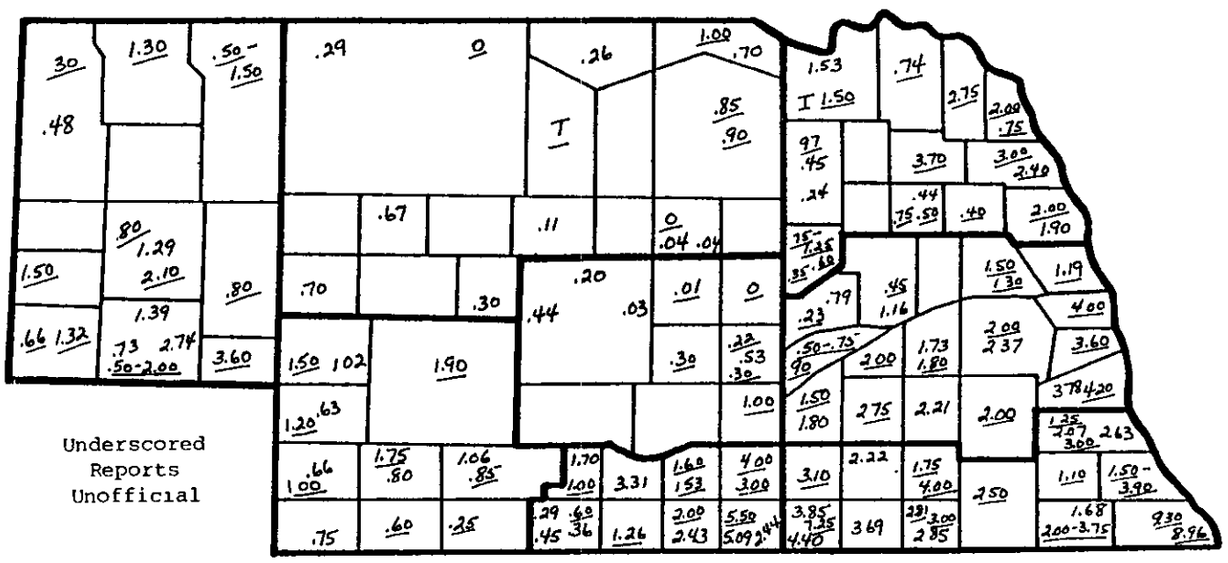
PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

CORN SILKING



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1992



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - JULY 17, 1992

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	1.33	.35	.91	.30	1.98	.82	2.01	2.92
Total since April 1	8.47	8.74	10.77	8.14	13.74	7.27	8.34	12.36
Normal since April 1	9.14	10.77	12.23	11.59	12.82	9.82	11.55	13.19

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1992

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	90	47	68	---	.95	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	89	49	68	-7	.42	1259	1382	1374
	Sidney	89	52	68	---	.72	1202	1324	1355
NC	Valentine	90	49	67	-8	.17	1161	1277	1384
NE	Norfolk	83	49	69	-7	.08	---	---	---
	Sioux City	83	53	69	-7	.10	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	1207	1332	1593
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	1137	1262	1539
	West Point*	---	---	---	---	---	1267	1406	1633
CEN	Grand Island	85	55	71	-6	.27	1300	1448	1604
	Ord	84	53	70	---	.17	1225	1354	1595
EC	Lincoln	91	55	73	-5	1.70	1412	1570	1677
	Omaha	86	59	71	-5	1.39	1359	1504	1607
	Columbus	---	---	---	---	---	1337	1473	1643
	York	---	---	---	---	---	1306	1456	1696
SW	Imperial	92	54	70	---	.23	---	---	---
	North Platte	91	50	69	-5	.67	**1202	**1326	**1510
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	1291	1440	1658
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	1350	1510	1793
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	1291	1443	1691

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above. *Automated weather station. **West Central Research & Extension Center.

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.