



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending May 4, 2008, favorable conditions at the beginning of the week allowed producers to make progress planting corn but wet weather late in the week forced many farmers out of the field, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Corn planting was catching up with last year but the cool soil temperatures were causing slow germination and emergence. The cold conditions in the Panhandle damaged emerged sugarbeets which will need to be replanted. There have been reports of stand losses to alfalfa due to winter kill. Slow growth may cause alfalfa first cutting to be below normal. Wheat conditions continue above last year and the five-year average with some stand losses from winter injury and disease being reported.

Soybean planting was beginning and was 3 percent complete, ahead of last year's 1 but behind the average of 6.

Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 29 fair, 58 good, and 8 excellent, above last year's 61 percent good or excellent condition. Wheat jointed was 25 percent, well behind the 59 of last year and 11 days behind the average of 60.

Alfalfa conditions rated 6 percent poor, 28 fair, 60 good, and 6 excellent, well above last year's 47 percent good or excellent condition.

Oats planted was 87 percent complete, near the 88 of last year and 8 days behind the average of 94. Oats emerged was 39 percent, well behind last year's 59 and a week and a half behind the five-year average of 72.

**Weather Summary:** Unseasonably cool temperatures and wet weather held on again this week with most areas 6 to 8 degrees below normal. A spring blizzard blew through the Panhandle late in the week with high winds and snow accumulations. The entire state received precipitation ranging from just under a quarter of an inch in southwest Nebraska to over an inch in the northeast and parts of the Panhandle. Temperatures ranged from highs in the low 80's in the east to lows in the teens in the Panhandle.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending May 4, 2008**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	4	5	2	4
Short	10	10	4	16
Adequate	80	69	74	73
Surplus	6	16	20	7
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	7	8	6	15
Short	17	21	16	31
Adequate	73	67	69	51
Surplus	3	4	9	3
<b>Days Suitable</b>	4.0	3.8	3.1	4.1

**Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending May 4, 2008**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	31	9	33	47
Corn Emerged	0		6	8
Oats Planted	87	81	88	94
Oats Emerged	39	28	59	72
Soybeans Planted	3		1	6
Wheat Jointed	25	12	59	60

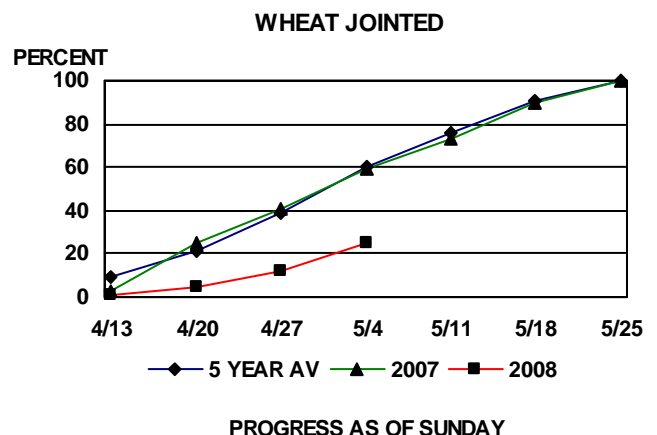
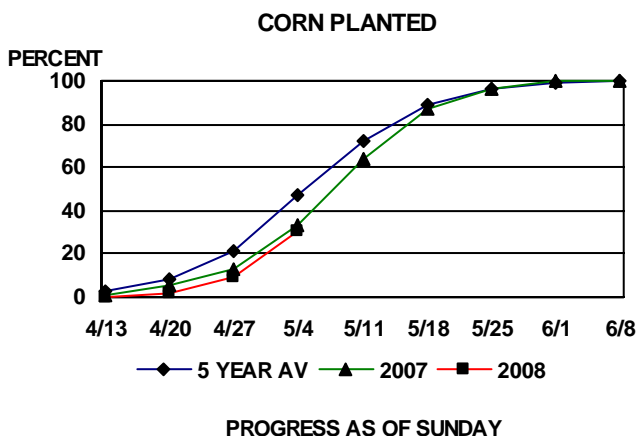
**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 4, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	0	6	28	60	6
Wheat	1	4	29	58	8

**Field Crops Report:** Corn planted made progress and was 31 percent complete. This is still behind last year's 33 and four days behind the average of 47. With below normal temperatures corn germination has been slow with less than 1 percent emerged, well behind last year's 6 and the average of 8. Planting was most advanced in south central counties.

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 7 poor, 29 fair, 58 good, and 5 excellent, below last year. Spring calving was 96 percent complete. Calf losses rated 8 percent below average, 91 average, and 1 above 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/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm)*



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

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