



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Issue NE-CW 2008

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 18, 2008, despite below normal temperatures, abundant sunshine allowed soils to dry and producers to shift planting into high gear making considerable progress, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Planting was in full swing with many producers done with corn and able to start on soybeans and sorghum. Warmer weather increased soil temperatures which helped crop emergence and boosted hay, pasture, and small grain growth.

Weather Summary: It was another cool week with temperatures averaging two to four degrees below normal. Only small amounts of precipitation were reported for much of the state. The west recorded both temperature extremes for the state with freezing temperatures as well as highs in the 90's.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending May 18, 2008**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	4	3	3	8
Short	11	6	12	18
Adequate	81	78	81	69
Surplus	4	13	4	5
Subsoil				
Very Short	6	5	6	16
Short	17	16	15	28
Adequate	75	74	76	54
Surplus	2	5	3	2
Days Suitable	5.2	3.7	5.7	5.0

Field Crops Report: Corn planted increased rapidly with the favorable weather and was 83 percent complete, still behind last year's 87 and three days behind the five-year average of 89. Corn emerged was 25 percent, behind the 50 of last year and a week behind the average of 51.

Soybeans planted were 26 percent complete, behind last year's 39 and four days behind the five-year average of 45. Soybeans emerged was 1 percent, behind last year's 7 and average of 11.

Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 7 poor, 33 fair, 50 good, and 9 excellent, below last year's 62 percent good or excellent condition. Wheat jointed jumped to 77 percent, still behind last year's 93 and six days behind average of 91. Wheat headed was 1 percent complete, behind last year's 26 and ten days behind the average of 24.

Alfalfa conditions rated 3 percent poor, 24 fair, 66 good, and 7 excellent, above last year's 54 percent good or excellent conditions and average of 55. First cutting was 2 percent complete, behind last year's 5 and the average of 8.

Oat conditions rated 1 percent poor, 19 fair, 75 good, and 5 excellent, ahead of last year's 72 percent good or excellent conditions. Oats planted was 97 percent complete, behind the 99 of last year and 100 average. Oats emerged was 90 percent, behind last year's 94 and the five-year average of 96.

Sorghum planted was 19 percent complete, behind last year's 23 and average of 22.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending May 18, 2008

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 1 st Cutting	2		5	8
Corn Planted	83	55	87	89
Corn Emerged	25	5	50	51
Oats Planted	97	94	99	100
Oats Emerged	90	66	94	96
Sorghum Planted	19	1	23	22
Soybeans Planted	26	6	39	45
Soybeans Emerged	1		7	11
Wheat Jointed	77	44	93	91
Wheat Headed	1		26	24

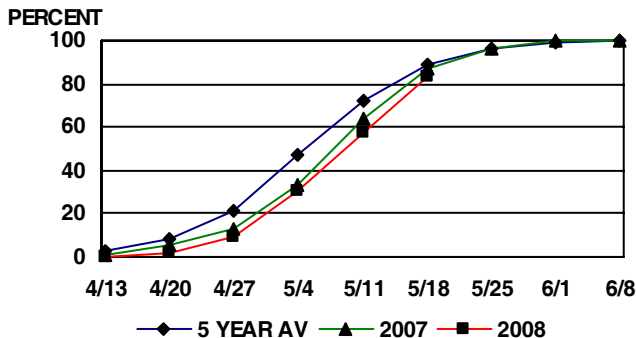
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 18, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	0	3	24	66	7
Oats	0	1	19	75	5
Wheat	1	7	33	50	9

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 28 fair, 62 good, and 5 excellent, above last year's 60 percent good or excellent condition. Many cattle were being turned out to pasture thanks to the warmer conditions aiding pasture growth.

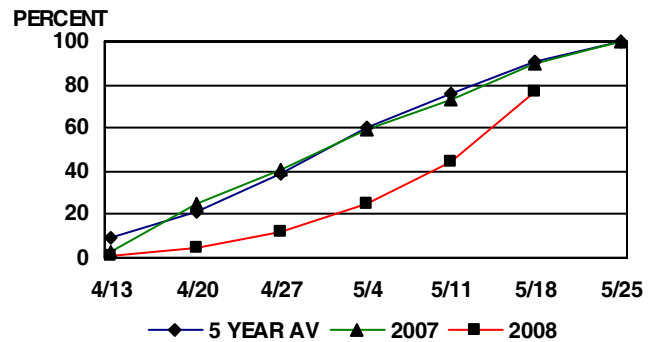
This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm

CORN PLANTED



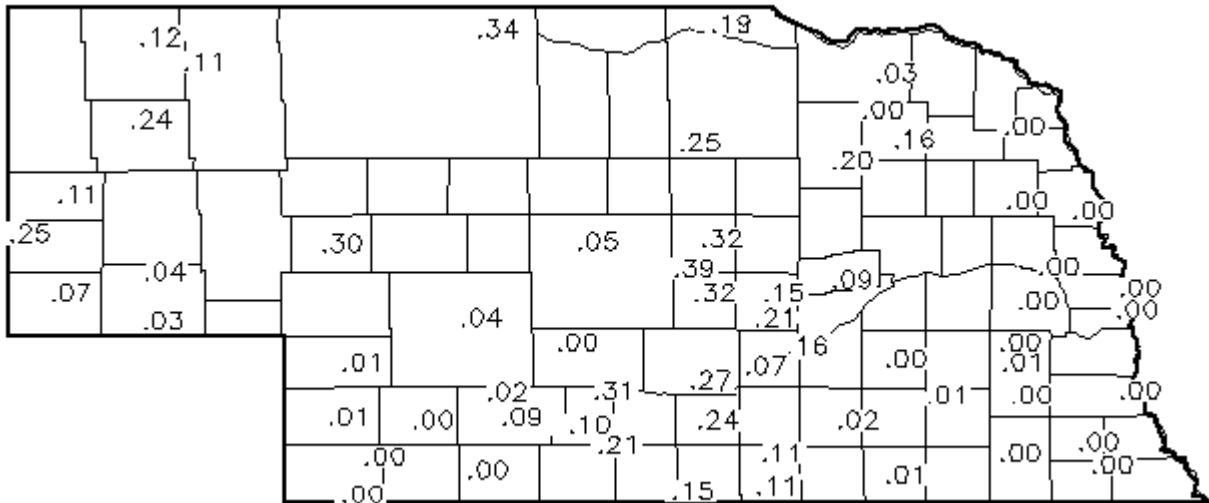
PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

WHEAT JOINTED



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. May 18, 2008



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 18, 2008

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.15	.19	.07	.17	.03	.02	.12	.01
Total since April 1	2.29	4.32	5.13	6.25	6.33	4.60	4.95	7.45
Normal since April 1	3.47	3.89	4.81	4.54	5.04	3.79	4.24	5.09
Total as % of normal	64%	110%	107%	137%	125%	120%	116%	146%

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 18, 2008

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	89	31	56	-2	71	260	282
	Scottsbluff	90	32	57	-1	77	302	280
	Sidney	87	31	55	-3	74	284	288
NC	Ainsworth	81	37	58	-3	76	240	312
	Arthur	89	34	57	-3	75	265	309
	O'Neill	81	33	57	-4	76	242	315
NE	Concord	79	34	57	-5	73	249	319
	Elgin	78	38	59	-3	77	249	319
	West Point	79	35	58	-5	80	282	331
C	Grand Island	84	37	60	-2	84	289	318
	Lexington	86	34	59	-2	85	287	315
	Ord	84	33	58	-3	85	280	316
EC	Central City	82	37	59	-3	81	294	321
	Lincoln	83	39	61	-3	87	310	340
	Mead	83	36	59	-4	89	311	340
SW	Champion	90	29	56	-4	83	317	312
	Dickens	92	33	58	-3	83	298	313
	McCook	92	33	61	0	97	332	314
SC	Minden	86	38	59	-1	84	291	316
	Red Cloud	85	38	60	-2	85	297	321
	Smithfield	85	37	59	-2	81	275	316
SE	Beatrice	83	37	60	-4	86	298	340
	Clay Center	84	36	59	-2	83	277	320
	Nemaha	84	41	62	-2	90	347	346

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