



Nebraska Weather and Crops

100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 437-5541 · (402) 437-5547 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov



Issue NE-CW 2908

Released July 21, 2008

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending July 20, 2008, wheat harvest was completed throughout much of the south and was active in the southern Panhandle, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Timely rains have fallen across much of the state aiding row crops but making hay harvest difficult. Growing conditions were excellent during the week with corn entering pollination and soybeans blooming. Drought conditions remain in the Panhandle with only 72% of normal rainfall since April 1.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged 4 degrees below normal and ranged from highs in the mid 90's in the southwest to lows near 40 in the Panhandle. All districts averaged near or over a half inch of rain with the Southeast District averaging over three inches.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending July 20, 2008**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	5	4	16	19
Short	22	29	36	38
Adequate	66	65	45	42
Surplus	7	2	3	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	7	6	13	22
Short	19	20	34	37
Adequate	68	71	53	41
Surplus	6	3	0	0
Days Suitable	5.0	6.0	5.9	6.2

Field Crops Report: Corn conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 4 poor, 19 fair, 56 good, and 19 excellent, above last year's 74 percent good or excellent rating. Irrigated fields rated 74 percent good or excellent well below last year while dryland fields rated 80, well above year ago levels. Corn silked was 46 percent, behind last year's 73 and five days behind the average of 63.

Soybean conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 5 poor, 18 fair, 60 good, and 15 excellent, well above last year's 67 percent good or excellent condition. Soybeans blooming were 39 percent, behind last year's 68 and nine days behind the 67 average. Soybeans setting pods was 4 percent, well behind last year's 22 and the average of 19.

Wheat conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 8 poor, 32 fair, 45 good, and 11 excellent. Wheat ripe was 88 percent, behind last year's 99 and the average of 96. Wheat harvested was 62 percent, behind last year's 85 and six days behind the average of 84.

Alfalfa conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 19 fair, 63 good, and 14 excellent, well above last year's 58 percent good or excellent condition. Second cutting was 61 percent complete, behind last year's and the average of 82.

Oat conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 1 poor, 9 fair, 61 good, and 29 excellent, well above last year's 67 percent good or excellent condition. Oats harvested was 24 percent, behind last year's 60, and eight days behind the average of 57.

Sorghum conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 26 fair, 61 good, and 11 excellent, well below last year's 81 percent good or excellent condition. Heading had begun in a few fields.

Dry bean conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 4 poor, 30 fair, 56 good, and 10 excellent, below last year's 75 percent good or excellent condition. Dry beans blooming were 23 percent, behind last year's 31 and the average of 32.

Wild hay conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 2 poor, 15 fair, 61 good, and 22 excellent, well above last year's 70 percent good or excellent condition.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending July 20, 2008

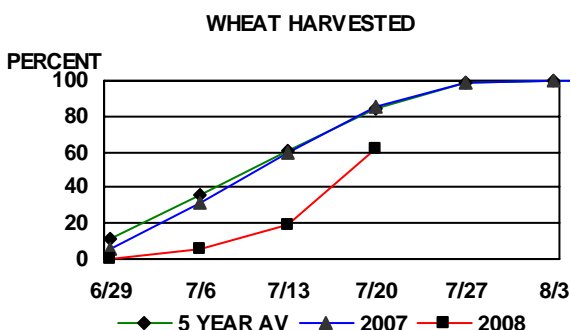
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 2 nd Cutting	61	35	82	82
Corn Silked	46	13	73	63
Dry Beans Blooming	23	10	31	32
Oats Harvested	24	12	60	57
Sorghum Headed	1		3	6
Soybeans Blooming	39	21	68	67
Soybeans Setting Pods	4		22	19
Wheat Ripe	88	68	99	96
Wheat Harvested	62	19	85	84

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending July 20, 2008

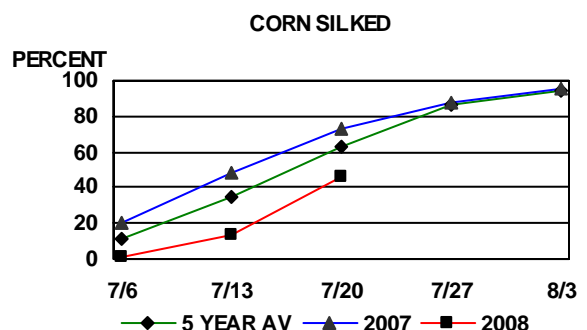
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	1	3	19	63	14
Corn	2	4	19	56	19
Dry Beans	0	4	30	56	10
Oats	0	1	9	61	29
Sorghum	0	2	26	61	11
Soybeans	2	5	18	60	15
Wheat	4	8	32	45	11
Wild Hay	0	2	15	61	22

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 19 fair, 56 good, and 18 excellent, well above last year's 58 percent good or excellent condition. Pastures are flourishing in much of the state and remain green and lush.

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

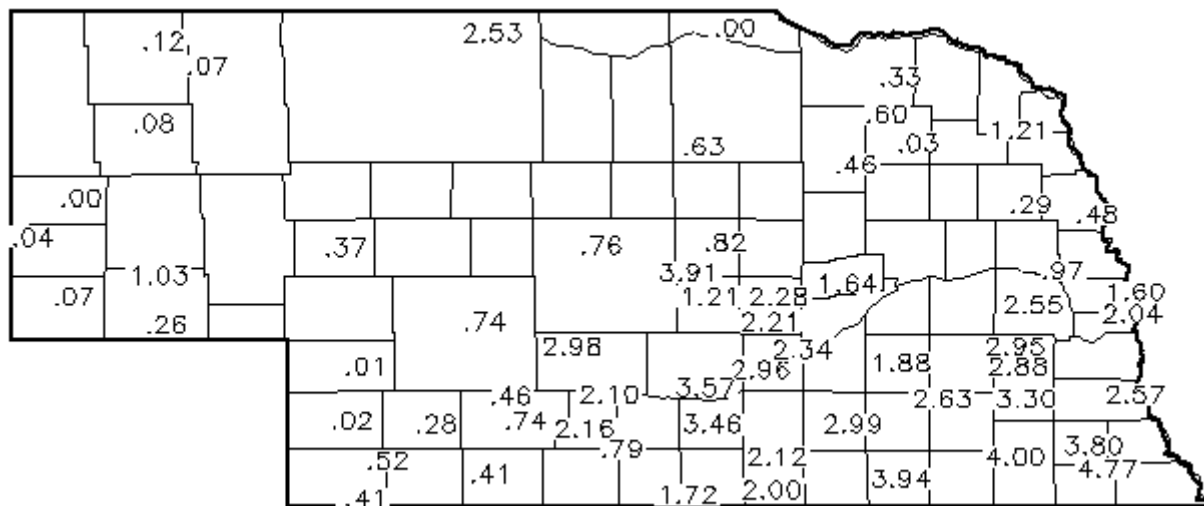


PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY



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Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. July 20, 2008



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – July 20, 2008

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.50	1.36	.44	1.91	2.47	.73	1.70	3.38
Total since April 1	6.68	15.20	16.09	19.19	21.45	15.14	15.98	20.77
Normal since April 1	9.19	10.92	12.97	12.04	13.18	10.81	11.73	13.40
Total as % of normal	72%	139%	124%	159%	162%	138%	136%	154%

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, July 20, 2008

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	85	40	64	-5	146	1192	1404
	Scottsbluff	90	41	68	0	152	1354	1398
	Sidney	89	45	65	-4	151	1274	1431
NC	Ainsworth	86	50	66	-6	160	1279	1578
	Arthur	87	44	65	-6	152	1244	1542
	O'Neill	85	49	67	-5	166	1327	1603
NE	Concord	89	51	70	-3	169	1408	1657
	Elgin	88	51	69	-4	168	1381	1632
	West Point	89	50	69	-4	168	1493	1727
C	Grand Island	93	54	70	-2	174	1524	1606
	Lexington	89	49	67	-4	166	1452	1579
	Ord	89	49	68	-4	165	1438	1601
EC	Central City	90	53	70	-2	170	1512	1636
	Lincoln	87	57	71	-3	184	1659	1770
	Mead	88	53	70	-4	177	1605	1768
SW	Champion	90	49	67	-4	159	1388	1559
	Dickens	92	45	66	-5	164	1382	1563
	McCook	94	50	69	-2	172	1543	1572
SC	Minden	90	51	68	-3	168	1492	1588
	Red Cloud	87	54	70	-2	170	1578	1623
	Smithfield	89	52	68	-4	166	1444	1582
SE	Beatrice	87	54	69	-5	173	1596	1770
	Clay Center	88	51	69	-3	170	1507	1623
	Nemaha	86	57	71	-4	184	1749	1774

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