



# Nebraska Weather and Crops

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



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**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending August 31, 2008, a warm, dry week kept producers busy irrigating and moved dryland crops toward maturity, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Producer activities included preparing wheat ground for seeding and planting alfalfa. Many producers were gearing up for silage, proso millet, and dry bean harvest.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged 1 degree above normal during the week, except in the eastern part of the state where temperatures averaged below normal. The Panhandle had highs in the mid 90's and parts of the state recorded lows in the mid 40's. For the most part, it was a dry week across the state with all districts averaging less than a half inch of precipitation.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending August 31, 2008**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	10	12	6	26
Short	38	32	21	31
Adequate	51	55	70	42
Surplus	1	1	3	1
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	9	9	14	34
Short	34	30	28	33
Adequate	56	60	56	32
Surplus	1	1	2	1
<b>Days Suitable</b>	6.6	6.5	5.2	5.9

**Field Crops Report:** Corn conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 4 poor, 18 fair, 54 good, and 22 excellent, near last year's 77 percent good or excellent rating. Irrigated fields rated 81 percent good or excellent, below last year while dryland fields rated 68, near year ago levels. Corn in the dough stage was 92 percent, behind last year's 96 and four days behind the 95 average. Corn in the dent stage was 63 percent, behind last year's 75 and two days behind the 69 average. Corn mature was 2 percent, behind the 8 of last year and the 6 average.

Soybean conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 7 poor, 25 fair, 53 good, and 13 excellent, well below last year's 77 percent good or excellent condition. Soybeans setting pods was 96 percent, behind last year and the 99 average. Soybeans turning color was 5 percent, behind last year's 13 and 19 average.

Alfalfa conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 8 poor, 32 fair, 48 good, and 9 excellent, below last year's 61 percent good or excellent condition. Third cutting was 85 percent complete, ahead of last year's 83 but behind the 88 average. Fourth cutting was 3 percent complete, behind last year's 8 and 9 average.

Sorghum conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 3 poor, 23 fair, 54 good, and 20 excellent, well below last year's 84 percent good or excellent condition. Sorghum headed was 98 percent, behind last year's 100 but ahead of the 96 average. Sorghum turning color was 30 percent, behind last year's 56 and a week behind the 47 average.

Dry bean conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 5 poor, 25 fair, 56 good, and 14 excellent, near last year's 71 percent good or excellent condition. Dry beans turning color was 52 percent, ahead of last year's 48 and the 43 average. Dry beans dropping leaves was 8 percent, behind last year's 14 and 17 average.

**Wheat** seeded was 3 percent complete, behind last year's 5 and even with the average. **Proso millet** was 2 percent harvested, behind last year's 5 and the 9 average.

**Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending August 31, 2008**

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	85	69	83	88
Alfalfa 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	3		8	9
Corn Dough	92	85	96	95
Corn Dent	63	42	75	69
Corn Mature	2		8	6
Dry Beans Turning Color	52	6	48	43
Dry Beans Dropping Leaves	8		14	17
Proso Millet Harvested	2		5	9
Sorghum Headed	98	91	100	96
Sorghum Turning Color	30	17	56	47
Soybeans Setting Pods	96	93	99	99
Soybeans Turning Color	5		13	19
Winter Wheat Seeded	3		5	3

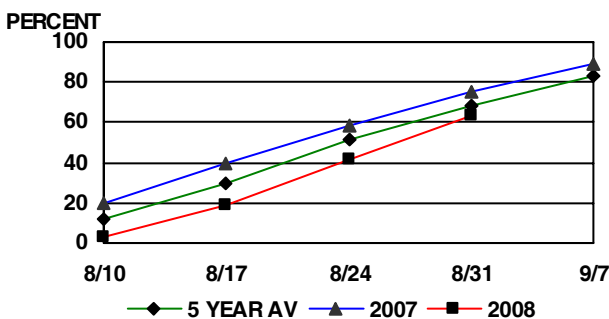
**Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 31, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	3	8	32	48	9
Corn	2	4	18	54	22
Dry Beans	0	5	25	56	14
Sorghum	0	3	23	54	20
Soybeans	2	7	25	53	13

**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range conditions rated 5 percent very poor, 12 poor, 28 fair, 47 good, and 8 excellent, below last year's 59 percent good or excellent condition. Supplemental feeding has been needed in some areas.

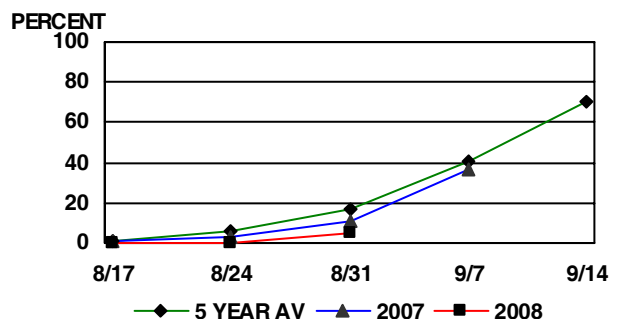
*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm)*

**CORN DENTED**



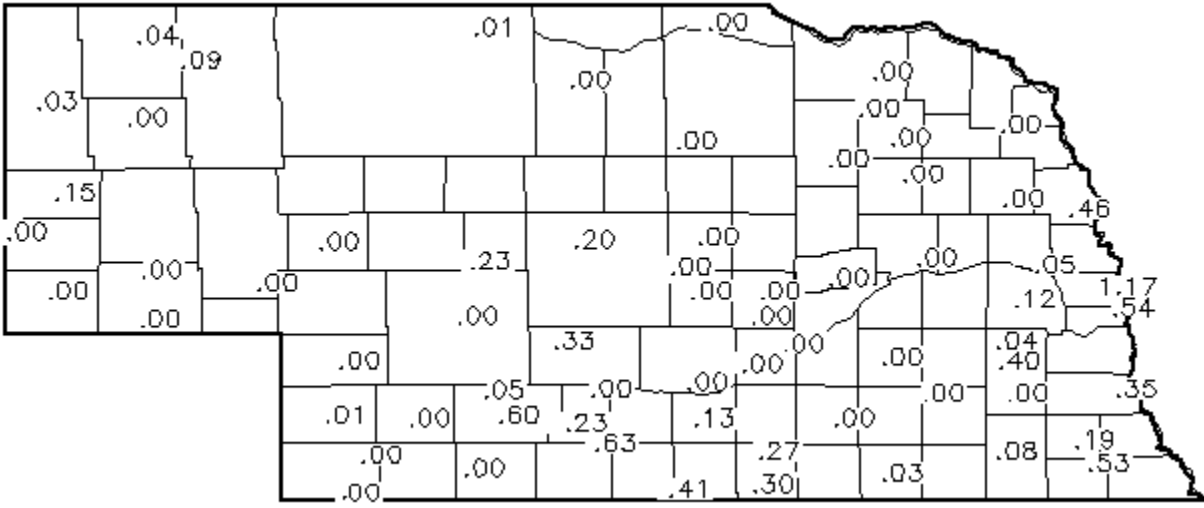
PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

**SOYBEANS TURNING COLOR**



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

**Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. August 31, 2008**



**Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 – August 31, 2008**

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.02	.02	.07	.03	.20	.09	.43	.13
Total since April 1	11.10	18.20	17.78	20.42	23.01	18.80	21.12	23.29
Normal since April 1	11.59	14.44	16.98	15.91	17.72	14.10	15.72	18.38
Total as % of normal	96%	125%	105%	128%	130%	132%	134%	127%

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,  
Week Ending Sunday, August 31, 2008**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	89	46	69	+2	131	2017	2286
	Scottsbluff	95	47	71	+4	142	2222	2277
	Sidney	93	50	71	+3	141	2116	2329
NC	Ainsworth	90	51	72	+3	147	2210	2549
	Arthur	90	50	71	+2	140	2124	2495
	O'Neill	90	51	71	+1	142	2260	2587
NE	Concord	86	48	69	-2	133	2308	2667
	Elgin	88	51	69	-1	134	2292	2629
	West Point	89	46	69	-2	135	2414	2771
C	Grand Island	87	50	70	0	138	2455	2587
	Lexington	87	49	70	+1	140	2356	2548
	Ord	88	46	70	0	140	2368	2583
EC	Central City	86	48	69	-1	131	2421	2634
	Lincoln	92	52	72	0	150	2684	2837
	Mead	90	47	70	-2	137	2548	2833
SW	Champion	89	45	71	+2	146	2266	2519
	Dickens	91	48	72	+3	148	2273	2524
	McCook	92	50	73	+4	153	2494	2537
SC	Minden	86	48	70	0	138	2400	2561
	Red Cloud	89	51	70	+1	141	2531	2614
	Smithfield	86	52	70	+1	141	2356	2552
SE	Beatrice	90	48	70	-2	139	2548	2837
	Clay Center	87	49	70	0	138	2440	2613
	Nemaha	87	57	72	0	153	2755	2836

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