



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 20, 2012, hot, dry, and windy conditions prevailed until showers moved across portions of eastern Nebraska late in the week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. The above normal temperatures and winds have taken a toll on soil moisture levels, which continue well below last year and normal. Producers have started pivots to aid crop germination and to activate chemicals. Progress in planting spring crops continued ahead of average with corn near completion, soybeans near two weeks ahead of average, and half of the sorghum crop planted. Wheat was 81 percent headed, 19 days ahead of average. Progress of the first cutting of alfalfa was 3 weeks ahead of average. Proso millet and dry bean planting continued. The dry conditions have affected pastures as well, with poorest conditions in northern Panhandle counties.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged 3 degrees above normal in the west to 6 degrees above normal in the east. High temperatures ranged from the mid 90's to lows of lower 30's in the Panhandle. Precipitation fell across most areas of the state but accumulation varied widely. The Northeast District received the largest amounts with some locations recording over 1.5 inches of rain. The Panhandle has received near half of normal precipitation since the first of the year.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending May 20, 2012

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	8	4	0	2
Short	42	28	6	11
Adequate	49	67	79	79
Surplus	1	1	15	8
Subsoil				
Very Short	11	5	0	3
Short	39	31	15	12
Adequate	49	63	80	80
Surplus	1	1	5	5
Days Suitable	6.4	6.2	3.4	4.6

Field Crops Report: Corn planting neared completion at 98 percent complete, ahead of 91 last year and 92 average. Corn emerged stood at 78 percent, well ahead of 45 last year and 9 days ahead of 49 average. Corn conditions rated 2 percent poor, 20 fair, 71 good, and 7 excellent.

Soybean planting was 83 percent complete, ahead of 60 last year and 13 days ahead of 54 average. Soybeans emerged were 42 percent, ahead of 15 last year and 12 average.

Sorghum planting was 47 percent complete, ahead of 28 last year and 1 week ahead of 27 average. Sorghum emerged was 17 percent, ahead of 5 last year and 4 average.

Oats emerged were at 99 percent, well ahead of 82 last year and 93 average. Oats conditions rated 2 percent poor, 26 fair, 70 good, and 2 excellent.

Wheat headed was 81 percent, ahead of 6 last year and 19 days ahead of 11 average. The impact of hot and dry conditions and low temperatures on wheat in the Panhandle is being felt. Wheat conditions declined and rated 2 percent very poor, 6 poor, 32 fair, 52 good, and 8 excellent, above last year's 52 percent good to excellent but below 64 average.

Dry beans planted were 24 percent complete, well ahead of 1 last year and 14 days ahead of 5 average.

Proso millet was 10 percent planted.

The first cutting of alfalfa was 58 percent complete, well ahead of 3 last year and 23 days ahead of 7 average. Concerns continued over insect activity. Alfalfa rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 28 fair, 53 good, and 12 excellent, below 73 percent good to excellent last year and average.

Wild hay conditions rated 3 percent poor, 24 fair, 71 good, and 2 excellent, above last year's 68 percent good to excellent.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending May 20, 2012

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 1 st Cutting	58	44	3	7
Corn Planted	98	91	91	92
Corn Emerged	78	57	45	49
Dry Beans Planted	24	3	1	5
Oats Emerged	99	93	82	93
Proso Millet Planted	10	3		
Sorghum Planted	47	25	28	27
Sorghum Emerged	17	4	5	4
Soybeans Planted	83	60	60	54
Soybeans Emerged	42	18	15	12
Wheat Headed	81	52	6	11

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 20, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	1	6	28	53	12
Corn	0	2	20	71	7
Oats	0	2	26	70	2
Wheat	2	6	32	52	8
Wild Hay	0	3	24	71	2

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 8 poor, 38 fair, 49 good, and 4 excellent, below last year's 73 percent good to excellent and 72 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/NEcurrent.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/NEcurrent.asp)



