



Nebraska Weather and Crops

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 5, 2012, precipitation and moderating temperatures brought some relief to crops and pastures along the southern third of the State, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. However, much of the eastern third of the state, where most of the dryland crops are grown, received only limited precipitation with conditions remaining poor for dryland crops and pastures. Drought damaged corn acres continue being chopped for silage or cut for hay to make up for pastures which are providing little or no grazing capacity. Irrigators continued their struggle with water demands and many livestock producers were hauling water due to dry ponds.

Weather Summary: Several rain events occurred during the week bringing precipitation to most regions of the state. The Southern two tiers of counties received the most rainfall with pockets averaging over two inches of rainfall, while the upper two-thirds of the state averaged only .50 inch. Temperatures were 2 degrees above normal for the week with highs reaching triple digits in some areas of the state. Lows were recorded in the mid 40's in northern and central counties and 50's elsewhere.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending August 5, 2012

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	65	67	4	6
Short	29	29	30	28
Adequate	6	4	64	64
Surplus	0	0	2	2
Subsoil				
Very Short	61	63	2	5
Short	33	33	22	22
Adequate	6	4	75	72
Surplus	0	0	1	1
Days Suitable	6.5	6.8	5.9	5.9

Field Crops Report: Corn in the dough stage was 76 percent, compared to 29 last year and 13 days ahead of 34 average. Corn in the dent stage reached 32 percent, ahead of 1 last year and 3 average. Corn that has reached maturity was 3 percent, compared to 0 last year and average. Corn conditions rated 17 percent very poor, 20 poor, 28 fair, 32 good, and 3 excellent, well below 78 percent good to excellent last year and average. Irrigated corn conditions rated 56 percent good to excellent and dryland corn rated 4.

Soybeans blooming were 94 percent, ahead of 87 last year and 90 average. Soybeans setting pods were 61 percent, ahead of 46 last year and 54 average. Soybean conditions rated 14 percent very poor, 23 poor, 41 fair, 21 good, and 1 excellent, well below last year's 77 percent good to excellent and 76 average.

Sorghum headed was 60 percent, ahead of 49 last year and 44 average. Sorghum conditions rated 13 percent very poor, 22 poor, 47 fair, 18 good, and 0 excellent, well below last year's 79 percent good to excellent and 78 average.

The third cutting of alfalfa was 80 percent complete compared to 24 last year and 31 average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 4 percent complete compared to 0 last year and average. Alfalfa conditions rated 34 percent very poor, 32 poor, 22 fair, 11 good, and 1 excellent, well below 80 percent good to excellent last year and 71 average.

Dry beans blooming were 86 percent, ahead of 83 last year but equal to 86 average. Dry beans setting pods were 45 percent, behind 50 last year but near 43 average. Dry bean conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 8 poor, 45 fair, 41 good, and 4 excellent, still well below 67 percent good to excellent last year and 66 average.

Wild hay harvest was 89 percent complete, ahead of 76 last year and 44 average.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending August 5, 2012

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	80	54	24	31
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	4	1	0	0
Corn Dough	76	39	29	34
Corn Dent	32	9	1	3
Corn Mature	3	0	0	0
Dry Beans Blooming	86	68	83	86
Dry Beans Setting Pods	45	13	50	43
Sorghum Headed	60	33	49	44
Soybeans Blooming	94	92	87	90
Soybeans Setting Pods	61	49	46	54
Wild Hay Harvested	89	87	76	44

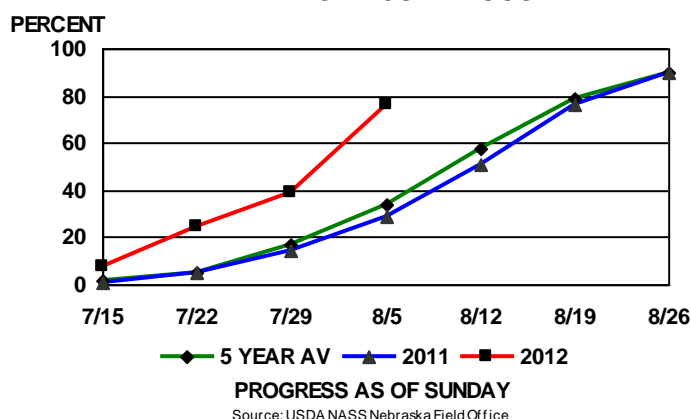
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 5, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	34	32	22	11	1
Corn	17	20	28	32	3
Dry Beans	2	8	45	41	4
Sorghum	13	22	47	18	0
Soybeans	14	23	41	21	1

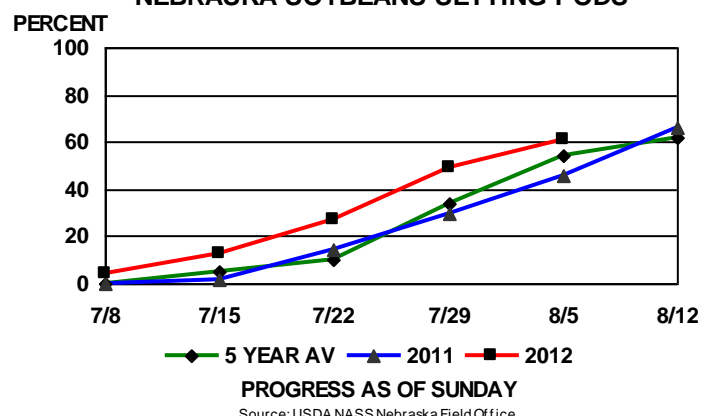
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 53 percent very poor, 36 poor, 10 fair, 1 good, and 0 excellent, well below 74 percent good to excellent last year and 72 average.

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

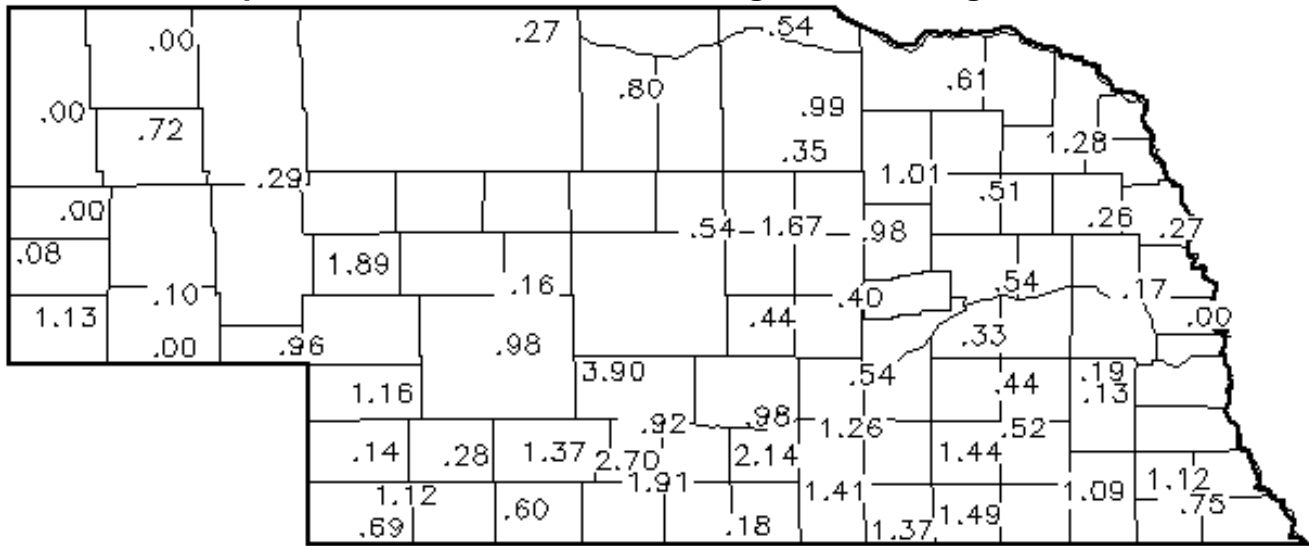
NEBRASKA CORN DOUGH



NEBRASKA SOYBEANS SETTING PODS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending 8:00 a.m. August 5, 2012



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, July 30 – August 5, 2012

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.32	.78	.65	.56	.21	1.00	1.92	1.02
Total since April 1	5.19	8.76	10.10	7.94	10.86	8.21	9.67	11.90
Normal since April 1	10.26	12.55	14.34	13.88	14.71	12.10	13.90	15.21
Total as % of normal	50%	69%	70%	57%	73%	67%	69%	78%

**Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, August 5, 2012**

Station	Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15			
	Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal	
	High	Low						
NW	Alliance	98	46	74	0	1711	1853	1794
	Scottsbluff	96	48	74	+1	1846	1993	1781
	Sidney	99	51	75	+1	1791	1941	1871
NC	Ainsworth	102	49	76	+1	1931	2082	1966
	Arthur	98	51	76	+2	1851	2009	1931
	O'Neill	101	50	78	+3	1920	2086	1999
NE	Concord	100	53	77	+1	2007	2174	2082
	Elgin	96	52	76	0	1949	2115	2035
	West Point	99	56	78	+1	2031	2203	2142
C	Grand Island	93	53	76	+1	2050	2220	2008
	Cozad	93	46	75	0	1917	2080	1970
	Ord	98	51	77	+2	1956	2121	1997
EC	Central City	97	51	77	+1	2056	2222	2038
	Lincoln	99	57	81	+3	2282	2467	2195
	Mead	99	54	78	+1	2138	2308	2195
SW	Champion	101	51	78	+3	1894	2056	1943
	Dickens	99	52	77	+2	1915	2079	1952
	McCook	98	50	78	+3	2072	2241	1965
SC	Minden	93	53	76	+1	2011	2181	1986
	Red Cloud	97	54	78	+3	2200	2376	2023
	Smithfield	92	53	75	0	1998	2167	1976
SE	Beatrice	99	56	79	+1	2199	2374	2195
	Clay Center	91	54	76	+1	2069	2240	2023
	Nemaha	97	58	80	+2	2350	2536	2194

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