Rum 1400 10-15-73

Nebraska Weekly Weather & Crop Report

Weather & Crop Service

Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
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National Weather Service

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr College of Agriculture

Release 10/15/73

Week Ending 10/15/73

WEATHER

General rains once again occurred over all of Nebraska during the week with amounts of 3/4 of an inch falling over the Panhandle to near 5.00 inches over the Southeast. Runoff was much greater over the southeastern end of the State due to rain from previous storms.

Temperatures were below normal most of the week with some below freezing temperatures being reported over the western third of the State.

CROPS

Continued and heavy rains reduced the quality and delayed harvest of most crops. Grain sorghum was showing particularly heavy damage and many soybean pods were shattering. Much lowland acreage was flooded, particularly in the Southeast along the Little Blue and Big Blue Rivers and tributaries.

Corn for grain harvest is about 5% completed compared with 15% both a year earlier and normal. Moisture content of corn being harvested is averaging 27% compared with 24% a year earlier. Stalk rot is particularly prevalent in northeast counties with an Extension Service Survey in 11 counties showing a presence in 27% of stalks. Lodging, however, is still light. Much ear mold and some sprouting is reported in areas receiving heavy rains.

Sorghum harvest is about 10% complete, well below the 25% a year ago and 30% average. The greatest progress has been made in the South Central. Average moisture content of the crop being harvested is 19% compared with 20% a year earlier.

Much of the grain sorghum sold on grade will be sample grade because of the high percentage of kernels showing damage from weather, mold and/or sprouting. This damage often results in a severe price discount although animal scientists believe the nutrient value of damaged kernels is not significantly lower than sound grain.

Soybean harvest is about 10% complete, far behind the 40% last year and the 55% average. Moisture content is 17% compared with 13% a year earlier. Many pods are shattering because of wet weather and the delay in harvesting.

Wheat condition is mostly good with 6% of counties rated excellent, 53% good, 25% fair and 16% poor. Condition is particularly poor in the southeast where many farmers have not been able to plant intended acreage. Much intended acreage not yet planted may not be planted to wheat because late planting increases chances of winter kill, wind erosion and late maturity. Considerable wheat was washed out or covered up in areas that received heavy rains.

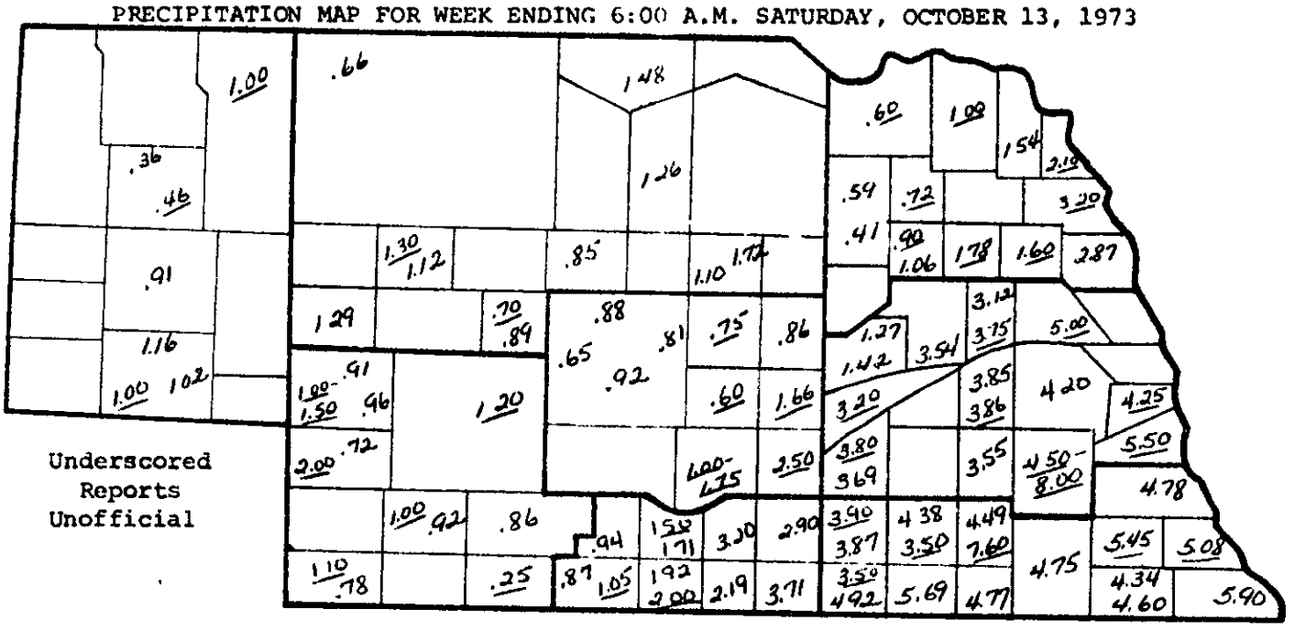
Sugar beet harvesting made slow progress early in the week due to many growers harvesting beans. Wet fields the rest of the week further delayed harvest. Dry bean harvest made good progress until stopped by weather on Wednesday and is about 75% complete.

Soil moisture supplies increased with most of the State having surplus amounts particularly in the southeast, east central and south central. Topsoil supplies were surplus in 82% of reporting counties and adequate in 18%. Subsoil supplies were 59% surplus, 39% average and 2% short. An average of three days were suitable for fieldwork in the week ending Friday.

RANGE & LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture conditions are mostly average with 36% of counties rated above average, 60% average and 4% below average. Hay and forage supplies are excellent in 23% of reporting counties, average 67% and below average 10%. Feed grain supplies are reported as above average in 19% of counties, average 72% and below average 9%. Many feedlots are muddy, particularly in the southeast. Many ranchers are weaning calves.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1973



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1973

Station		Temperature				Precipitation Inches
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total 1/
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	82	27	47	--	.46
	Scottsbluff	79	29	47	-6	.71
	Sidney	76	26	45	--	.70
NC	Burwell	85	33	56	--	1.09
	Valentine	83	31	50	-3	1.36
NE	Norfolk	84	35	59	+3	.68
	Sioux City	86	38	63	+6	1.93
CEN	Grand Island	84	34	58	+1	1.43
EC	Lincoln	86	37	61	+3	4.82
	Omaha	82	37	62	+5	2.72
SW	Imperial	80	32	52	--	.69
	North Platte	82	29	52	+2	1.26

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

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