

For the week ending July 28, another week of spotty rainfall did little to improve declining crop conditions in major dryland counties of eastern Nebraska, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service—however, an inch or more of precipitation was received in portions of central and western Nebraska.

According to the report, more is needed to reverse the prolonged drought conditions.

Temperatures did cool considerably at the end of the week, which lowered crop moisture demands.

Wheat harvest continued to move northward but was slowed in southern Panhandle counties due to recent rains.

Statewide, producers had 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 24 percent very short, 45 short, 30 adequate, and 1 surplus. Statewide, subsoil moisture supplies rated 35 percent very short, 41 short, 24 adequate, and 0 surplus.

Field Crops Report:

All corn condition rated 5 percent very poor, 8 poor, 24 fair, 48 good, and 15 excellent.

Irrigated corn conditions rated 78 percent good or excellent, compared to 74 average.

Dryland corn conditions declined and rated 40 percent good or excellent, compared to 64 average.

Corn silking was 81 percent complete, behind 94 last year and 84 average. Corn in dough was 4 percent, behind 37 last year and 17 average.

Soybean conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 6 poor, 28 fair, 56 good, and 8 excellent.

Eighty-two percent of the crop was blooming, behind 91 last year but near 78 average.

Twenty-three percent of the crop was setting pods, behind 46 last year and 32 average.

Sorghum conditions rated 6 percent very poor, 16 poor, 32 fair, 25 good, and 21 excellent.

Sorghum heading was 26 percent, behind 31 last year but ahead of 18 average.

Wheat ripe was 95 percent, behind 100 last year and 98 average. Seventy-five percent of the crop was harvested, behind 100 last year and 89 average.

Oats harvested were 81 percent, compared to last year's 96 and 70 average.

Dry bean conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 23 fair, 66 good, and 7 excellent. Dry beans blooming were 66 percent, near 63 last year and 61 average. Seventeen percent of the crop was setting pods, ahead of 11 last year and 13 average.

Alfalfa conditions were 6 percent very poor, 14 poor, 34 fair, 42 good, and 4 excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 88 percent complete, behind last year's 96 but near 87 average. Third cutting was 6 percent complete, behind 53 last year and 19 average.

Livestock/Pasture/Range:

Stock water supplies rated 8 percent very short, 19 short, 73 adequate, and 0 surplus.

Pasture and range condition was 18 percent very poor, 25 poor, 36 fair, 21 good, and 0 excellent.