Severe to Extreme Drought in Parts of Eastern NE and Western IA

*This product will be updated weekly through the end of the growing season.

Synopsis:
-Drought conditions have improved over much of eastern Nebraska this past week due to beneficial rainfall of 1-5 inches across the area.
The rain is very welcome for short-term soil moisture, however severe to extreme drought remains across much of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.
Local & State Actions:

Many counties have authorized emergency haying and grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This included 44 counties in Nebraska and 39 counties in Iowa. In some areas, projected low soybean yields have led to producers cutting their fields for cattle.

Additional information concerning the drought can be obtained via the Department of National Resources: [https://dnr.nebraska.gov/index](https://dnr.nebraska.gov/index)

Additional information about federal disaster declarations due to the drought and drought assistance information can be found at the farm service agency web site at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

Soil Moisture Conditions:

![Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm) SEP 16, 2020](image)

**Nebraska** - *Topsoil* moisture was rated as 31% short and 14% very short. *Subsoil* moisture was rated as 33% short and 20% very short.

**Iowa** - *Topsoil* moisture was rated as 21% short and 12% very short. *Subsoil* moisture was rated as 31% short and 20% very short.

**Agricultural Impacts:**

**Nebraska** - As of September 13th
Corn: 17% poor or very poor  
Soybean: 15% poor or very poor  
Sorghum: 10% poor or very poor  
Winter wheat: 17% behind average  
Oats: not available  
Pasture: 32% poor or very poor

**Iowa** - As of September 14th
Corn: 27% poor or very poor  
Soybean: 20% poor or very poor  
Hay: 18 days ahead of average  
Oats: not available  
Pasture: 49% poor or very poor


**Water Restrictions:**
None known

**Fire Danger:**

Keetch-Byram Drought Index: 16-Sep-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KBDI Value</th>
<th>Description of Fire Potential</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-200</td>
<td>Low - Wet with little danger of fire initiation</td>
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<tr>
<td>201-300</td>
<td>Moderate - Drying occurring with some fire danger</td>
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<tr>
<td>301-400</td>
<td>High - Ground cover dry and will burn readily</td>
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<tr>
<td>401-500</td>
<td>Extreme - Dead and live fuels will burn readily</td>
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http://www.wfas.net/images/firedanger/kbdi.png
River and Streamflow Conditions:

Hourly and forecast river stages out to 90 days can be found at the National Weather Service’s (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) web page: https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=oax

Additional Current stream and river stages may be viewed at the following USGS Web Site: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

-A majority of the river gauges across eastern Nebraska and wester Iowa indicate near normal streamflow for this time of year
Local Climatology:

30 Day Rainfall Departure from Normal

- 1 to 2 inches below normal across most of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa
- Recent rainfall has cut down this deficit a few inches

6 Month Rainfall Departure from Normal

- 2 to 6 inches above normal in southeast Nebraska
- 4 to 6 inches below normal in east-central Nebraska, northeast Nebraska, and western Iowa
- 6 to 10+ inches below normal in parts of central and western Iowa
Precipitation & Temperature Outlooks:

For the end of September, the odds favor above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.
Questions and/or Comments:

If you have any questions or comments about the information in this document please contact:

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Related Websites:
NWS - http://www.weather.gov/oax
Drought Monitor: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
https://www.drought.gov/drought/
USGS - http://water.usgs.gov/