

## Recent moisture brings hope

Written by Wauneta Breeze  
Thursday, 06 June 2013 16:48 -

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**Cows in a pasture north of Wauneta enjoy recent grass growth. (Christi Christner | The Wauneta Breeze)**

**By Christi Christner**

**The Wauneta Breeze**

The last couple of weeks have been filled with rain and wind, a total opposite from the weather last summer.

In 2012 the area received a total of 17.65 inches of moisture. That was the lowest moisture count since 2005 when the area received 17.44 inches of moisture.

In the eastern part of Nebraska, drought conditions have eased while the western part continues to be in extreme drought, according to the USDA Weather and Crop Report.

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Although the local areas have not received as much rain as farmers may have liked, the area has given a good start for the month.

According to the USDA, corn conditions are one percent poor, 25 percent fair, 65 percent good and 10 percent excellent.; 99 percent is planted while 84 percent emerged.

Steve Christner says his corn has been given a little bit of a reserve going into June.

For wheat owners, head development is still a week and a half behind average according to USDA.

Wheat conditions are 24 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 33 fair, 13 good and one excellent.

Not only are farmers benefitting from these rains, but livestock owners are receiving help.

Last summer was a difficult time for many livestock owners to find feed. Many farmers started using corn stalk bales because of the shortage of alfalfa and cane.

Now that it has rained, some of the grasses in pastures have come back providing food for livestock.

The wind has pulled some moisture and topsoil out of the fields and pastures. However, it has been much cooler out keeping some of the moisture in the ground.

The high winds did allow some spring fieldwork to be done.

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Local farmers have been blessed with a good start with the rains and now can only hope for more moisture and no hail.