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## CropWatch No. 94-24-2, Dec. 16, 1994

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# CROP WATCH

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension  
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

No. 94-24  
Dec. 16, 1994

## El Nino pattern to dominate winter weather

Plentiful rains during October helped alleviate significant precipitation deficits across the Panhandle. Before October, the Panhandle was more than four inches below normal precipitation, however now many locations are near normal. The remainder of the state also received timely precipitation. As an added bonus, most of the precipitation prior to December was in the form of rain, which went into groundwater recharge.

Although little faith can be placed on long range forecasts, the next few months may prove interesting. A fairly strong El Nino weather pattern is expected to develop over the next few weeks, dominating global weather. A split flow appears to be developing — a strong northern jet has locked into place over northern Canada, while the southern jet dominates the western United States.

If this trend continues, the extremely bitter cold air will remain over Alaska, while normal to above normal temperatures should occur over most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, the southern jet is responsible for most of the major snowstorms over the central United States.

**Al Dutcher**  
State Climatologist  
Agricultural Meteorology

## Prepare early for government aid

# Grasshopper problems likely to occur in 1995

Late summer and early fall surveys of adult grasshoppers indicate that a high potential exists for grasshopper infestations across much of Nebraska in 1995. Barte Smith of the USDA-APHIS tells us that these surveys identified about 14.5 million acres, primarily in western and northern Nebraska, will likely have high grasshopper infestation levels and subsequent damage. Other portions of the state are expected to have more grasshoppers than in 1994, but not alarmingly high infestations in most cases. With our relatively mild fall, egg survival is expected to be high unless we have a very cold, wet winter.

Obviously, with winter upon us, little except planning can be done for the situation until warmer weather begins. Smith will be working with University of Nebraska extension educators and specialists in the affected areas to organize informational meetings for winter and early spring. These meetings will provide landowners and operators with detailed results of the surveys for their areas. Government programs that might provide cost/share assistance in managing the grasshopper situations also will be discussed. According to Smith, it will be impor-

tant for interested parties to begin the process early, if government assistance is going to be requested, because there are new requirements for environmental impact statements and other reports to be completed well in advance of when the control actions may be needed. In other words, it will be nearly impossible to obtain government assistance if one waits until the grasshopper problem is critical next summer before initiating the paperwork to obtain approval.

For more information about the grasshopper situation, survey results, or government assistance cost/share programs, contact Barte Smith at (402) 434-2345.

**Steve Danielson**  
Extension Entomologist

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Lisa Brown Jasa, Editor

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## Sustainable agriculture producer grants available in the North Central Region

If you're interested in incorporating some sustainable agriculture practices into your farm or ranch operation or you want to try an alternative crop or develop a new marketing approach, grant funds may be available.

The North Central Region (NCR) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program again will sponsor its *Implementing Sustainable Agriculture Producer Grant Program*.

Applications for the USDA-funded program are expected to be available Feb. 1 and are due May 1. Approximately \$100,000 is available through a competitive process for grants of up to \$5,000. In the first three years 87 grants were awarded to producers in the North Central Region, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

A wide diversity of demonstration and on-farm research projects have been funded through

this program, including rotational grazing, field trials with various tillage systems, farmer networks, alternative crops, composting, equipment modifications, and biocontrol measures. Many projects have emphasized reduced chemical or no-chemical pest control and whole-farm systems. All projects are required to include a means for disseminating information through a field day, publication or workshop. Application forms, which are available from the NCR SARE Office, must include a letter of reference.

Funding decisions for the program will be made in late July 1995, with funds available in mid-fall. For a copy of the grant application packet or a list of previously funded grants, contact the NCR SARE Program, 13A Activities Bldg., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0840 or call (402) 472-7081.

Steven Waller  
 NCR SARE Regional Coordinator

# Now's the time to renew your *CropWatch* subscription

Take a few moments now to renew your subscription to *CropWatch* will help insure that you don't miss a single issue. Publication is scheduled to begin again in March 1995 and continue at least into November. In the past few years, the scope of the newsletter has broadened to include weather and crop production information in addition to pest scouting and management. This year a team of Extension specialists in soil fertility joined the experts already writing regular pieces for the newsletter. Insect and disease reports from Kansas also were

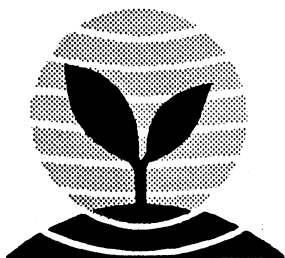
added to help our readers in the southern tier of counties know more about what might be moving their way. We hope these changes have helped you, the reader, better address your agricultural production challenges.

We appreciate your subscription. If you're already a reader, you know that our writers are state Extension specialists in entomology, plant pathology, weed science, agronomy, agricultural meteorology, and agricultural engineering, who routinely gather scouting, management and research data from throughout the state before

formulating their recommendations. If you have any suggestions for how we could improve *CropWatch*, call or add a note on the survey on pages 169-170.

If you're like many of our readers you've probably saved input costs from the scouting and management recommendations, the savings reported by readers being many times over the actual \$25 cost of a subscription.

Lisa Jasa  
CropWatch Editor



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Dear *CropWatch* Subscriber,

We value your opinion and want to know what you think about *CropWatch*? What do you like and what don't you like about it? How can we improve it for you? Please take a moment and fill out this survey. Then fold it, tape it, and return it to us, postage free. Thank you.

1. What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_ How would you categorize it?  
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 Consultant \_\_\_\_\_ University Extension/Research \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you are a producer, 1) how many acres do you farm and what crops do you produce; or 2) what kind and how many livestock do you raise? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is most valuable about *CropWatch*? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What changes would you make in the subject matter? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there subject matter areas you would add? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you changed any pest management or crop production practices as a result of information in *CropWatch*?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, in what areas? (Please check all that apply.)  
 Pesticide selection \_\_\_\_\_ Pesticide timing \_\_\_\_\_ Scouting \_\_\_\_\_ Nonchemical controls \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Can you give an example and/or assign a dollar value per acre to your savings? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you getting the information you need on a timely basis? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please give specific examples.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. With "1" being most important and "10" being least important, please rank the following subject matter areas in the order of their importance for you.  

_____ Agronomic information	_____ Insect control
_____ Biological control	_____ Pesticide updates
_____ Disease control	_____ Variety trials
_____ Equipment	_____ Weather effects
_____ Information sources	_____ Weed control
10. Do you read all or part of the newsletter and how do you decide what to read? What do you do with the newsletter when you're done reading it? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many other people read your newsletter after you're done? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you plan to subscribe to *CropWatch* in 1995? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



What is your age? Under 30 \_\_\_\_\_ 30-40 \_\_\_\_\_ 40-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 50-60 \_\_\_\_\_ Over 60 \_\_\_\_\_

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