

# NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service crop progress and condition report for the week ending May 21, 2017, temperatures averaged three to five degrees below normal. Significant rainfall of two inches or more was recorded across the majority of counties; however, rainfall totals of three inches or more were recorded across the southeast. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 5 short, 74 adequate, and 21 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 1 percent very short, 6 short, 80 adequate, and 13 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 2 percent very poor, 12 poor, 41 fair, 41 good, and 4 excellent. Winter wheat jointed was 99 percent, ahead of 94 last year and 86 average. Headed was 61 percent, ahead of 42 last year and 36 average.

In the northern Panhandle, producers report hail damage in some areas, as well as high soil moisture levels following storms in the past weekend. Producers estimate some fields will be totalled out due to the hail, but this level of damage was not widespread. While temperatures reached near freezing, no frost damage has been reported. Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus (WSMV) is present in the region, and producers are proactively spraying fungicide as conditions are favorable for rust development. Overall, wheat in the region ranges from fair to good, with the crop unaffected by hail or disease rated excellent. The crop is primarily in the early to late heading stage, and there are some reports of kernel development.

In the southern Panhandle, reported precipitation levels over the past week ranged from 1" to 2.5", with some areas receiving nearly 5" of rain. Some parts of the region received snow as well, with no damage reported as of yet, but producers are waiting to see if there are any broken stems or lodging issues as a result. Wheat in the area is estimated to be 50-60 percent headed out, with the rest of the crop in the heading stage. WSMV has been sighted across the region, with some reports of

the crop losing tillers as a result. With the recent damp conditions, growers are beginning to see increased levels of rust and are beginning to spray fungicide to minimize its impact. Overall, the crop is rated fair to good and producers will continue to try to combat disease pressure.

The south central region of the state received 3-4" of rain in the past week, leaving the soil profile saturated. As with other regions, conditions are favorable for the development of rust so producers have been applying fungicide. There have been reports of WSMV in the area as well. As a result of snow received 2 weekends ago, there are significant issues with lodging and broken off wheat near the Kansas-Nebraska border. Aside from the damage due to snow, crop conditions in the region are good and nearly all wheat is headed out.

Southwestern Nebraska received around 2" of rain in the recent storms, as well as isolated snow flurries. Temperatures reached near freezing, but producers are still evaluating what effects this may have had on the crop. Wheat in the area is mostly headed out, some of which is beginning flowering. Overall, the crop is rated good to excellent. There have been some reports of WSMV, and while no significant amount of rust has been spotted in the region, producers remain vigilant as recent weather conditions are favorable for development of the disease.

In the southeastern area of the state, producers report fair crop conditions, with all wheat in the heading stage, and some flowering. The region received precipitation nearly every day in the past week, resulting in the soil being fully saturated. Disease pressure in the region is low, but some scab has been reported in fields.