Nebraska Wheat Crop Report

July 12, 2017

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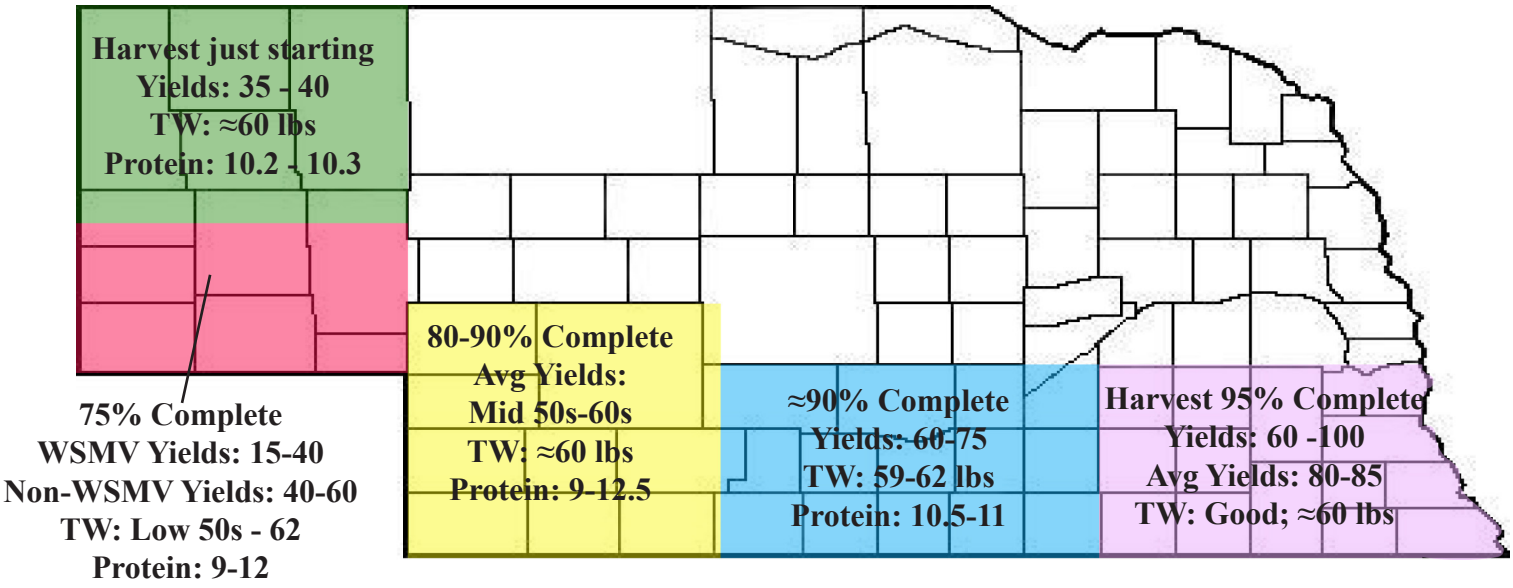
For the week ending July 9, 2017, temperatures averaged two to six degrees above normal, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Moderate amounts of precipitation covered most of the western counties and eastern parts of the Panhandle; however, the eastern half of the State remained dry. Drier conditions allowed winter wheat harvest to progress. Winter wheat condition rated 3 percent very poor, 12 poor, 36 fair, 43 good, and 6 excellent. Winter wheat mature was 85 percent. Harvested was 52 percent, ahead of 35 last year and 38 average.

In the northern Panhandle, harvest began over the past week. Yields are averaging between 35 and 40 bu/acre, with test weights averaging around 60 lbs. Protein content is averaging between 10.2 and 10.3.

In the southern Panhandle, some producers report they are 75% done cutting while others are just about to start. Harvest has not yet begun at higher elevations, but some test cutting has been done. Weather conditions over the past week have been mainly hot and dry, with some scattered thunderstorms bringing between 0.25 and 0.5 inches of rain. In fields that were affected by Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus (WSMV), reported yields are between 15 and 40 bu/acre, test weights range from the low to upper 50s, and average protein is between 11 and 12. In fields without WSMV, yields are higher, average test weight is between 60 and 62 lbs, and protein levels are between 9 and 10.

In southwest Nebraska, producers report the region saw hot and dry conditions over the past week, with isolated rain and hail. However, much of the wheat had been cut before the hail and just a few fields were damaged or hailed out. Harvest in the region is 80-90% complete, and some producers have finished cutting already. Reported yields range from 30-75 bu/acre with averages in the mid 50s to 60s, and quality is good with test weights averaging slightly above 60 lbs. In grain that has been tested, protein content ranges from 9 to12.5.

In south central Nebraska, producers report harvest is nearing completion. Weather conditions in the past week have been dry and hot, with a storm that brought a narrow strip of hail damage to areas of southern Gosper and northern Furnas counties. Reported yields range from 60 to 75 bu/acre and test weights of 59 to 62 lbs. Reported protein content falls from 10.5 to around 11.

In southeast Nebraska, producers report harvest is mostly wrapped up in the area. Reported yields range from 60 to 100 bu/acre, with the average falling between 80 and 85 bu/acre. Test weights are rated good; there is no report on protein content from this region at this time.