

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA's Crop Progress Report, there were 2.6 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 8, 2018. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 17 short, 77 adequate and 4 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 3 percent very short, 25 short, 70 adequate and 2 surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 7 poor, 34 fair, 46 good and 12 excellent.

Producers in the northern Panhandle said the crop is just starting to break dormancy and green up. Overall producers rated the wheat condition as good, but mentioned additional moisture would be preferred. Soil moisture levels are currently adequate, but producers said the crop would soon start using up the existing supply.

Producers in the southern Panhandle said wheat has broken dormancy and is starting to green up. However, the stated growth rates are slow due to cooler temperatures. The western part of the region received some moisture, and producers indicated soil moisture levels were adequate. However, producers in the eastern part of the region expressed concerns about inadequate moisture in recent weeks, and high winds that had evaporated the topsoil moisture supply as it was received. Producers indicated topdressing would likely start soon if temperatures would consistently warm up slightly.

Producers in the southwest region of the state experienced recent cold temperatures. Temps fell below freezing for over 10 hours last week. The crop has started breaking dormancy, but is early enough in the growth cycle, that producers reported minimal damage from the recent freeze. In a few areas, producers reported some burn back on smaller tillers and leaf tips, but they believed the root and plant as a whole were still viable. Topdressing has been occurring in the region, and producers indicated soil moisture levels were adequate, but there was no surplus.

Producers in the south central part of Nebraska reported wheat was breaking dormancy and looked good. No obvious damage was reported from recent cold temperatures and most topdressing is completed. Producers expressed concerns about dry conditions, however. They indicated some areas had subsoil moisture, but most topsoil moisture levels were short across the region.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers reported slow growth in the wheat. Temperatures and weather conditions have been variable so far this spring. Most of the top dressing is complete, and some herbicide has gone down as well. Producers indicated recent rains and snows put topsoil moisture at adequate levels, but subsoil moisture supplies were short. The recent cold temperatures don't appear to have injured the wheat, but producers said wheat is smaller and growing more slowly than average as a result.