

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA's Crop Progress and Condition report for the week ending April 15, topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 16 short, 78 adequate and 4 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 3 percent very short, 22 short, 73 adequate and 2 surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 38 fair, 43 good, and 12 excellent.

Producers in the northern Panhandle reported snowfall of up to 8 inches in areas over the weekend. The snow was heavy and provided up to an inch of moisture in some areas. However, most of the snow has already melted. Soil moisture levels remain adequate. Producers estimate freeze damage to the wheat from cold temperatures during the blizzard will be minimal.

In the southern Panhandle, producers reported snowfall ranging from 0 to 10 inches depending on which part of the region one was in. Heavy winds blew snow out of fields in some areas. Overall, producers said the crop remains in early growth stages and they don't anticipate freeze damage to the wheat from the recent cold temperatures and snow. Cool temperatures have prevented field work from progressing in the region.

In southwestern Nebraska producers reported varying levels of snowfall, with most receiving less than 4 inches. Strong winds blew much of the snow out of fields, and producers reported most snow is already melted. Precipitation in the area ranged from .1 to .5 inches. However, precipitation is in the forecast for the coming week. Cold temperatures did cause some burning of leaf tips on wheat, but producers reported most damage to be cosmetic. Soil moisture levels range from short to adequate.

Producers in the south central region of Nebraska reported smaller amounts of snow. High wind speeds blew most snow into drifts and along windbreaks. Producers said little significant moisture was provided by the weekend snows. Temperatures were in the low teens overnight and into early mornings. However,

producers didn't observe significant damage to wheat from the freezing conditions. Topsoil in the area is reported as slightly dry, with adequate subsoil moisture but no surplus. Producers in the region are hoping to receive additional moisture soon.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers said snowfall was limited and much less than what was received in western parts of the state. However, cool temperatures have limited the wheat growth and what field work can be accomplished. Producers said wheat conditions remained good in the area, top soil moisture levels were adequate, but subsoil moisture levels were drier. Producers in the area are hoping for rain and warmer temperatures to help wheat growth start progressing.



A wheat field near Stratton shows signs of freeze damage and burning on leaf tips. Producers in the region said most damage was cosmetic, as root systems appeared healthy and the wheat remained in an early stage of growth.