

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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Caroline Brauer
402-471-2358

caroline.brauer@nebraska.gov

According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending April 22, 2018, there were 3.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 18 short, 76 adequate and 4 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 4 percent very short, 25 short, 70 adequate and 1 surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 37 fair, 46 good and 10 excellent.

Producers in the northern Panhandle reported low temperatures in the teens this week. Some leaf tips showed a little burn from the frost, but producers said they're not seeing any additional damage from the freeze. The region received anywhere from .1 to .3 inches of moisture, keeping soil moisture supplies at adequate levels. Producers said little growth has been added to the wheat due to the cooler temps.

In the southern Panhandle, producers reported little change in growth as well. Temperatures across the region remained cool, but no heavy freezes occurred. Some areas received moisture amounting to half an inch. Producers said some warmer temperatures would help the wheat start to grow, particularly in the later-planted fields. Wheat planted in mid-October or later shows significantly less development than earlier planted fields.

Southwestern Nebraska received anywhere from .3 to 1.1 inches of rain in the last week. Producers in the area said soil moisture levels are adequate to good. However, cool temperatures in the region have limited the growth on wheat. Overall producers said wheat in the region looks adequate to good. A few fields show some leaf curling from earlier freezes, but producers still anticipate recover of the wheat in those areas.

In south central Nebraska, producers reported receiving as much as an inch of rain the last week. Temperatures stayed above freezing, but didn't get warmer than the 40s and 50s. Soil moisture levels remain adequate, but wheat growth is behind normal.

Producers in southeastern Nebraska said the region could use more precipitation. While parts received as much as .25 inches of rain in the last week, subsoil moisture levels remain short. The lack of moisture and cooler temps have delayed wheat growth. In some areas producers estimate the wheat may be 2 to 3 weeks behind normal. Warmer temperatures are in the forecast, but producers said with the warmer temperatures, existing topsoil moisture will be used up quickly, and more would be needed soon.