

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending May 20, 2018, topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 15 short, 72 adequate and 11 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 4 percent very short, 22 short, 72 adequate and 2 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 31 fair, 51 good and 11 excellent. Winter wheat headed was 4 percent, well behind 57 last year and the 29 average.

In the northern Panhandle, producers reported rainfall levels ranging from 1.5 inches to 9 inches. Most areas received the 1.5 to 3 inches of rain, but some standing water exists where higher levels fell. Overall wheat conditions look average to excellent. Producers reported a little tan spot and barley yellow dwarf, but don't anticipate much damage from the diseases. Wheat is in the flag leaf stage, and producers expect it to start heading soon.

Producers in the southern Panhandle received precipitation ranging from 1 to 5.5 inches. Some hail also fell with the rain, but was limited in the regions where extensive damage occurred. In those areas, producers reported as much as 50 percent loss or damage from hail. Crop maturity ranges from jointing to flag leaf stage.

Parts of southwestern Nebraska also received moisture. Rainfall totals averaged in the 1.5 inch range. However, some areas received as much as 7 inches while other received less than .5 inches of rain. Most wheat is in the boot stage, with some wheat further south in the regions showing signs of heading. Soil moisture levels remain adequate across most of the region, with producers reporting crop conditions as average to excellent.

In south central Nebraska, producers said much-needed rain finally fell. The region received anywhere from .5 inches to 4 inches of rain, with most regions averaging 1.5 to 2 inches. Producer reported crop conditions look average with the recent rains. Some areas, particularly those where drought stress was turning wheat blue, have improved slightly. Producers rate those fields fair, but noted they remain behind the rest of the crop in growth and maturity. Most wheat in the area is just starting to head.

Producers in southeastern Nebraska reported rainfall totals ranging from a trace to 2 inches. Northern parts of the region received more rainfall than the southern areas. In a few southern areas, some drought stress is starting to show. Most wheat in the region is starting to head.