

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending May 13, 2018, topsoil moisture supplies rated 4 percent very short, 18 short, 71 adequate and 7 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 5 percent very short, 24 short, 70 adequate and 1 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 1 percent very poor, 7 poor, 25 fair, 53 good and 14 excellent. Winter wheat headed was 37 percent, well behind last year's 82 percent and the 49 percent average.

In the northern Panhandle, producers reported good soil moisture conditions. Most of the area received some level of precipitation. Reported rainfall varied from .3 inches to 1.5 inches in the last 10 days. Wheat in the region is progressing toward maturity with nearly half the wheat headed. No hail or lodging damage was reported from recent rains and storms.

Producers in the southern Panhandle reported receiving precipitation again this week. The month's totals to date range from 6 to 11 inches depending on the area, which is above average for the region. No disease pressures have been reported, but some cheatgrass and rye are causing problems in a few areas. Producers said crop conditions overall looked good, and said if hail could be avoided, some areas had great potential heading into harvest. Wheat in the area ranged from starting to head at higher elevations in the western side to mostly headed in the eastern, lower elevation parts of the region. Some later planted wheat however is still a week to ten days behind.

In southwestern Nebraska, producers said as much as 7 inches of rain fell within the last week. However, some areas received smaller amounts, with rainfall in those areas just reaching half an inch. Some isolated hail storms cause minimal damage. Producers estimated hail losses in those areas totaled 5 to 10 percent. Wheat in the area is mostly headed with some wheat flowering.

South central Nebraska received precipitation within the last week producers said. Rainfall amounts varied anywhere from half an inch to two inches. All wheat in the area is headed. Wheat that had been blue from drought stress earlier in the season has recovered slightly and headed. Producers reported those fields had less height and growth on the plants, and they anticipate a yield loss on them as well.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers reported varying levels of precipitation falling during the last week. Some parts of the region received no rainfall, others received up to half an inch. In areas where rainfall was limited, wheat is showing signs of severe stress. Producers said some fields have been hayed and baled for livestock feed as they didn't anticipate the wheat making it to harvest.



A thunderstorm rolls through part of the southern Panhandle of Nebraska on May 29.