

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending June 17, 2018 indicates topsoil moisture supplies are rated at 6 percent very short, 30% short, 61% adequate and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated at 8 percent very short, 26% short, 65% adequate and 1% surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 8% poor, 29% fair, 52% good and 9% excellent. Winter wheat headed was at 98 percent, which is behind last year's 100 percent, but above the 96 percent five-year average.

Rain fell over a large portion of the state, varying from .30 to over 9 inches. Rainfall and cooler temperatures were a welcome change from the hot and dry conditions much of the state had been seeing in past reports.

Producers in the northern Panhandle generally received anywhere from 1 – 2 inches of rain this week. They are still seeing a few green heads, with most wheat starting to turn color. Sawfly continues to be reported and the extent of damage is not yet predictable. Overall, the crop is average to above average.

Some Southern Panhandle producers' reported three-plus inches of rain and although not widespread, hail did do some damage in the region. Areas receiving the hail reported damage from 20% to 100%. Soil moisture is now above average in most areas of the region and no significant disease concerns have been reported. The crop is generally turning and early plantings are in the soft dough stage, while later plantings are behind. Anticipate that they will begin harvesting in three weeks. The overall condition of undamaged fields is above average.

Southwestern Nebraska received some spotty rain—anywhere from .30 to 2.5 inches, which boosted the soil moisture. The wheat is starting to turn and conditions will likely improve with the recent moisture and cooler temperatures in the forecast. Some minor leaf rust continues to be reported and harvest is most likely 2 -3 weeks away. Overall, the crop condition is reported as good.

In south central Nebraska, producers were happy to see around four inches of rain in the region. The wheat which was slow to mature, will receive a boost from the rain. The wheat is all headed, in the soft dough stage and they are beginning to see some color. No disease stresses have been reported. Wheat conditions in the area range from average to below average.

Conditions in southeastern Nebraska are still being reported as dry/drought conditions. Rainfall was received across the region last night, varying from over 2 inches to over 9 inches in the Reynold, NE area. As reported last week, the crop is maturing prematurely in some areas due to drought stress and maturity. It was estimated that nearly one-third of the wheat in the region has been cut and baled. Of the remaining wheat, most is turning color. Harvest is in full-swing south of the state line, into Kansas. A couple of producers have begun to harvest with one reporting under 20 bushels per acre and the other producer reporting around 40 bushels per acre. The overall condition for wheat in the area would be rated at fair to poor.