

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending June 24, 2018 reports topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 13% short, 71% adequate, and 14% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 4 percent very short, 17% short, 74% adequate, and 5% surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 4 percent very poor, 8 poor, 21 fair, 58 good, and 9 excellent. Winter wheat harvested was 1 percent, equal to both last year and average.

The northern Panhandle received very little rain this week, along with some spotty hail in the area. With last week's precipitation helping out, soil moisture remains adequate. The majority of the wheat is turning color, with some green heads still being observed. Sawfly damage continues to be reported, but overall the crop is rated at average to above average.

Southern Panhandle producers again reported receiving rain, around one inch in most areas. Once again the area had reports of hail damage, with damage in affected areas ranging from 20% to 100% or total loss. Along with the hail, there were reports of 83 mph winds hitting the area and adding to the damage of the crops. Soil moisture continues to be adequate in most areas of the region and no significant disease concerns have been reported. The wheat is generally turning color and ranges from soft dough to hard dough stages. It is anticipated that wheat harvest will begin in 7 to 14 days. The overall condition of undamaged fields is above average.

Southwestern Nebraska received some rain—generally 1½ inches throughout the area. The wheat is at hard dough stage and harvest is expected to begin by the end of the week or early next week. Overall, the crop condition is reported as average to slightly above average.

Southcentral Nebraska saw rain this week ranging from 1½ to 4½ inches across the area. Temperatures are expected to be in the 100° range for the next several days, which will help dry up the fields and allow the combines to get started. With no evidence of disease or pests, the crop is currently rated at average to above average for most of the area.

Southeastern Nebraska is hoping for some dryer weather. Rainfall amounts have varied across the region this week. Very few producers have begun harvesting at this point and they are anxious for the fields to dry up so that they can get into the fields. Harvest is expected to start as soon as fields are dry enough, hopefully as soon as the coming weekend.