

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending July 14, 2019, topsoil moisture supplies rated 1 percent very short, 13 short, 75 adequate, and 11 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 6 short, 86 adequate, and 8 surplus. Winter wheat harvested was 14 percent, well behind last year's 57 percent and the 52 percent five year average.

South Central Nebraska is finally drying out and producers report of the first wheat in the area being cut on Sunday. In general, things are two to three weeks behind schedule, but if the weather holds, a majority of the wheat will be in the bins this week. No reports of diseases in the area as pre-treatment of fungicides were beneficial this season.

Wheat harvest started on Friday for many producers in Southwest Nebraska. With no rainfall within the last week along with the high temperatures, combines have finally been able to get into the fields. However, there are still plenty of muddy fields, so farmers are selective in where they cut. Some accounts of 65 bushels per acre, test weight of 62-63 and protein levels of 10.5 – 11.3 have been reported in the area. It is estimated that 30 – 40 % of the wheat in the area has been harvested. Things are looking good and if the weather cooperates, harvest will progress well this week.

Things are still running behind in the Northern Panhandle regarding harvest. Producers are hoping that by the end of the week a few combines may start cutting, particularly in Box Butte County. Major cutting is anticipated to be about 10 days away. There are a few reports of minimal rust in the area. Producers are waiting to see what Mother Nature has in store for them this week and hopefully they will all be in the fields by next week.

The Southern Panhandle received some light rain showers last night, which has put test cutting on hold for a while. Producers report that the area has been plagued with small rain showers and high humidity, which is contributing to very few combines rolling and an overall late harvest. Reports indicate that mid-season and late-season wheat varieties are still green. The overall condition of the crop is looking promising and hopefully, with the some dry weather, harvest will start in full-force in the next couple of days in select areas.

