

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

MAY 22, 2019



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According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending May 19, 2019, topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 5 short, 80 adequate and 15 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 4 short, 81 adequate and 15 surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 26 fair, 57 good and 12 excellent. Winter wheat headed was 8 percent, near last year's 4 percent but behind the average 27 percent.

Producers in the northern Panhandle reported snowfall ranging from 3 to 8 inches. It was a wet snowfall, with estimated moisture levels of 1.4 to 2.5 inches. Temperatures dropped below freezing during the snowfall. Producers believe the snow may have insulated the wheat during the freezing temperatures. However, the heaviness of the snow flattened fields in areas. Some kinked and broken stems are anticipated by producers, however, the snow has not yet melted enough in areas to do a full damage assessment. The majority of wheat in the region was in the boot stage when snowfall began.

In the southern Panhandle, producers experienced varying conditions. Those further west received as much as 2 or 3 inches of snow, while producers in the eastern part of the region received only trace amounts of snow. However, producers in the eastern portion of the region reported rainfall totalling as much as 2 inches. Standing water has been reported in some fields with low spots. Cool temperatures in the last week have limited growth on the wheat, with no real advancement in stage from last week. No disease pressures have been reported yet.

In southwestern Nebraska conditions varied, though most areas received moisture. Precipitation varied from half an inch to more than 2 inches of rain. Temperatures remained cool, and a frost advisory in some parts of the region concerned producers. However, most producers reported temperatures did remain above freezing. Wheat growth progress varies depending on time planted and region. Some fields are starting to head, while others are still in boot or flag leaf stages.

Producers in the south central region of Nebraska also reported rainfall ranging from 1 to 1.5 inches. Most wheat is in the boot stage, but some later planted fields are still very far behind. Some fields with growth under 6 inches have been reported. It is possible some later planted fields may be terminated and planted to another crop. Overall conditions in the area remain good. No disease pressures have been reported. However, producers said they were remaining vigilant as it's been a wet spring and disease pressures have been reported in southern states.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers reported wet conditions continued with an additional 1 to 2 inches of rainfall received in the last week. Wheat has started heading, with earlier planted fields almost fully headed. Soil moisture levels are surplus in some areas. Wet and windy conditions are delaying application of fungicide to wheat in the flag leaf stage. No disease pressures have been reported, but producers are watching for it based on the spring conditions and disease reports in southern states.