

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending July 7, 2019, topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 4 short, 84 adequate, and 12 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 2 short, 86 adequate, and 12 surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 6 poor, 22 fair, 50 good, and 20 excellent. Winter wheat harvested was 2 percent, well behind last year's 22 percent and the 26 percent average.

Producers in the northern Panhandle said recent rains have pushed a potential start date for harvest back even further. As much as 1.5 inches of rain fell in areas. No hail damage was reported. Sawfly pressure continues to be monitored, and producers expressed concern over the potential for increased damage as the time until harvest continues to grow. Estimated harvest start dates are the last few days in July or the beginning of August.

Parts of the southern Panhandle also received rain. Producers said anywhere from half an inch to more than 3 inches fell across the region. There is some localized flooding in fields. Wheat in the area is in the soft dough stage to ripening. However, producers said recent rains and cool temperatures slowed maturation in the wheat. Harvest is currently estimated to begin around July 20 for much of the region.

In southwestern Nebraska producers said as much as 2 to 5 inches of rain fell in the last week. Some localized areas received damaging hail. Producers estimate the region is 10 days behind normal for production. Some test cutting may begin as early as the end of this week, though most harvest won't begin until next week.

Producers in south central Nebraska said they were ready to harvest when rain came again. Some areas received hard falling rain that lodged wheat in fields. As much as 7 inches of rain fell in some areas. Producers said they will be ready to harvest as soon as fields dry out, but rain is forecast again this evening. Yield potential for fields in the area remains good, but producers expressed concern over the impact of recent rains on test weight, saying it may drop slightly.

At this time last year, harvest in southeastern Nebraska was complete. Producers said some cutting of wheat occurred on the southern border with Kansas, but then rain caused more delays. Rain combined with higher humidity has kept fields from drying out as well. Producers are hoping to get the majority of harvest started in coming days, however, additional rain is forecasted for the region. It's estimated less than 5 percent of the region has been harvested, and no harvest quality data is yet available.