

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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Nebraska Wheat Staff
402-471-2358
wheat.board@nebraska.gov

According to the USDA crop progress report for the week ending April 28, 2014, an inch of rainfall was common in eastern and south central counties. However, little or no moisture was received across western counties as drought conditions continued. Temperatures averaged 6 to 8 degrees above normal. The number of days suitable for fieldwork was 5.3. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 14 percent very short, 39 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 17 percent very short, 45 percent short, 38 percent adequate and 0 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 51 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Winter wheat jointed was 5 percent, near last year's 6 percent but behind the five-year average of 25 percent.

In the northern Panhandle, producer said top dressing is nearly complete, but the weather has delayed things this week. Much of the area received cooler temperatures and snow. Producers estimate anywhere from 2-4 inches of snow accounting for almost an inch of moisture was received.

In the southern Panhandle, producers said the crop condition varies greatly. Much of the area received high winds and little or no moisture. A few select areas did receive some precipitation, totally just over half an inch. The wheat has not started jointing yet.

In the northern part of southwestern Nebraska, producers said the wheat is starting to joint, though some areas are still in the tillering stage. Most of the area has been cool this week, and several areas received precipitation ranging from 0.3 inches to 0.8 inches. However, producers agreed more moisture would be needed in the near future to help the wheat hold on or improve. Most producers rated wheat fair, with a few fields in good condition.

In southwestern Nebraska, select areas received as much as 1.25 inches of rain. Parts of southwestern Nebraska closer to the Colorado border, however, received little or no rain. Producers said some blue wheat had been spotted in select fields, but that area had recently received rain and they were hopeful it would help. Producers had mentioned some select areas treating for army worms, and others were being watchful for grasshoppers. Conditions varied greatly depending on moisture received, with earlier planted fields in better condition than later planted areas.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers said they received between .75 inches and 2 inches of rain. Producers said the recent moisture brought topsoil levels back to adequate. Overall producers said stands looked average to good.

