

# NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA crop progress report for the week ending May 18, 2014, precipitation across much of the western half of the state improved topsoil moisture supplies. However, southwest Nebraska again received only limited amounts of rainfall and remained in severe to extreme drought. Statewide, temperatures averaged 9 to 12 degrees below normal and freezing temperatures were reported on multiple nights.

Topsoil moisture supplies rated 12 percent very short, 24 percent short, 61 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 16 percent very short, 33 percent short, 50 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 8 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 37 percent good and 3 percent excellent. Winter wheat jointed was 71 percent, ahead of 57 percent last year but behind the five-year average of 76 percent. Winter wheat headed was 11 percent, ahead of 1 percent last year, but behind 17 percent average.

In the northern Panhandle producers said some of the wheat is looking good and any bad wheat is starting to look better. The northern Panhandle received abundant moisture with over a foot of snow two weeks ago. Moisture from the snow ranged from 2 to 4 inches. Some of the lower quality soils have been roughed up but producers said anything that has been tilled is looking good.

In the southern Panhandle producers said they recently received some good moisture with 1.5 to 2 inches of rain. While producers said they have some poor

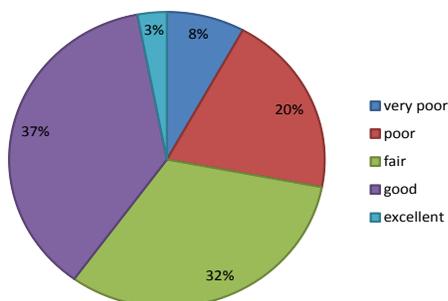
quality wheat, some is still surprisingly good, even the wheat that has been conventionally tilled. Recent temperatures of 80 degrees are causing some issues and producers said they are not sure if the roots will be able to come down enough. Some areas did recently receive rain and hail, and producers said they were not sure about the extent of that damage to the crop yet.

In the northern part of southwestern Nebraska, producers said the wheat overall looks pretty good and they recently received snow. While they are still short on moisture, they said they received just enough at just the right time. More moisture this weekend would help the wheat continue to improve. Some producers said they had recent temperatures of 80 degrees, which for some has caused blue spots to show up on parts of the crop. Producers in some areas said nearly 100 percent of their wheat was booting, with a few that might be showing heads. Some producers said there have been a few growers in the area that are spraying fungicide to their crops.

In the southwest corner of Nebraska, producers said the wheat was 6-8 inches tall and starting to turn brown. Producers said that moisture has been lacking and irrigated wheat has been planted in some areas. Producers estimated the crop as 30 percent poor, 50 percent fair and 20 percent good. Producers said the wheat crops were 100 percent jointed and 50 percent headed.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers said there was frost damage to wheat crops a couple days ago. The height of the wheat crop overall is said to be not that tall at average or below average.

**Wheat Conditions as of May 18**



**Soil Moisture Conditions May 18**

