

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA crop progress report for the week ending April 20, 2014, cold temperatures at the beginning of the week gave way to warmer conditions. Temperatures averaged 4 to six degrees below normal with soils beginning to warm by the weekend. Precipitation was light with less than three tenths of an inch recorded in most areas. Heavier amounts were received on Sunday in the east central counties. Drought intensity continued to be severe across much of the western half of the state. The number of days suitable for fieldwork was 5.3. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 13 percent very short, 41 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 17 percent very short, 44 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

In the northern Panhandle, the wheat is nearing the end of the tillering stage, but has not started jointing. Producers said some wheat is slightly damaged from the frost and cold temperatures the area received last week. The wheat conditions rated 50 percent good to excellent, 25 percent fair to good, and 15-20 percent poor. The windy weather conditions are making it difficult for producers to spray. The temperatures are still cool, with temperatures at night around 30 degrees. Soil moisture levels rated adequate. No moisture was received this past week. Top dressing is 60 percent completed.

In the southern Panhandle, it has been windy and dry with no moisture was received this past week. Producers said the wheat is tillering and will begin jointing in the next two weeks. The wheat condition overall rated good. Soil moisture levels rated short to adequate depending on the area. Producers said if no moisture is received in the next few weeks those figures will decrease. Top dressing is 80-95 percent completed.

In the northern part of southwestern Nebraska, the wheat is tillering and coming close to jointing. Producers said no moisture was received this past week, but it has been warm with heavy winds. The soil moisture levels rated short to very short. The crop condition rated poor to fair depending on the area. Top dressing is 100 percent completed.

In the southwest corner, the more mature wheat, 30 percent, is jointed and the rest is still tillering. The area received 0-1 inch of moisture this past week. The soil moisture levels rated very short to short, depending on the area. Producers said there has been slight cut worm pressure in select fields, and the majority of that has received treatment. Now, some producers are keeping an eye out for grasshoppers. The crop condition rated 65 percent good, 30 percent fair, and 5 percent poor. Top dressing is 100 percent completed.

In southeast Nebraska, 100 percent of the wheat is tillering, but has not started jointing. Producers rated crop condition as good. The area received no moisture this past week, but the weather has been windy. The topsoil moisture levels rated short and subsoil moisture levels rated adequate.

