Nebraska Wheat Crop Report

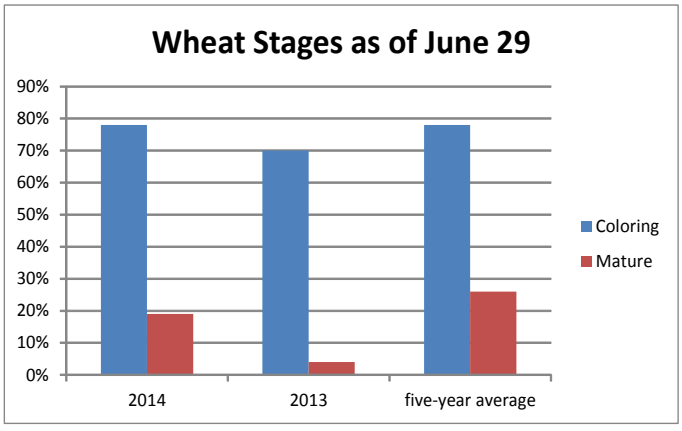
July 2, 2014

Angela Hensel, Intern
402-471-2358
wheat.intern@nebraska.gov

According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for the week ending June 29, 2014, rain of an inch or more coupled with lower average temperatures provided excellent conditions for pastures and spring planted crops. Wheat was coloring in most areas, but dry down was slow due to high humidity and wet conditions. Harvest had not yet started. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 2 percent very short, 14 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 9 percent very short, 17 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 6 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 45 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Winter wheat coloring was 78 percent, ahead of 70 percent last year, but equal to the five-year average. Winter wheat mature was 19 percent, ahead of 4 percent last year, but behind the 26 percent average.

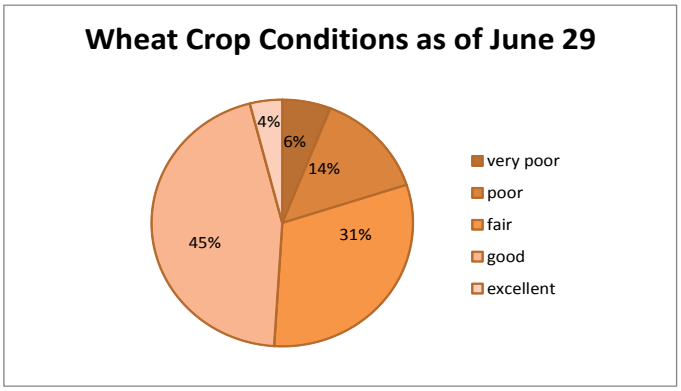
Harvested acreage is forecasted at 1.4 million acres, up 24 percent from a year ago. Wheat stored in all positions totaled 13.8 million bushels, down 34 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks of 270,000 bushels are down 78 percent from 2013 and off-farm stocks of 13.5 million bushels are down 31 percent from last year.

In the northern Panhandle, producers said the wheat is still green but starting to turn color in some areas. The region received .25 to 1.0 inches of moisture in the past week, with select areas also receiving hail. Crop conditions vary and producers said they expect harvest to start around the 20th of July, continuing into the beginning of August. Some producers reported sawfly and tan spot in the region.



In the southern Panhandle, producers said the wheat stage varies from soft dough to ripening. Some producers said they expect harvest to begin in seven to 10 days, while others said they were not expecting it for another two to three weeks. The region received 0.5 to 1.25 inches of moisture in the past week, with select areas also receiving hail. Producers rated the crop condition as average to above average. Producers said there were some reports of sawfly farther west.

In the northern part of southwest Nebraska, producers said the wheat is in the soft to late dough stage, and some of it is starting to turn color. They said they expect harvest to begin in seven to 10 days, with some test cutting happening early next week. The area received 1.0 to 2.5 inches of rain in the past week, with select areas also receiving hail. Producers reported no major disease or pest problems.

In the southwest corner of Nebraska, producers said harvest has just begun in some areas and less than 3 percent of producers have begun harvest. Most are expected to begin within the next few days. The reports for yield, moisture levels and test weights are not yet available, although producers said they expect average yield could range anywhere from 10-50 bushels per acre. Crop conditions vary. The area received 2.0 to 3.0 inches of rain within the past week.

In the southeast corner of Nebraska, producers said some have started test cutting and full harvest will begin in the next few days. Producers rated the crop condition as good overall and said it had plenty of moisture with the region receiving 0.5 inches of rain this past week.