Nebraska Wheat Harvest Update

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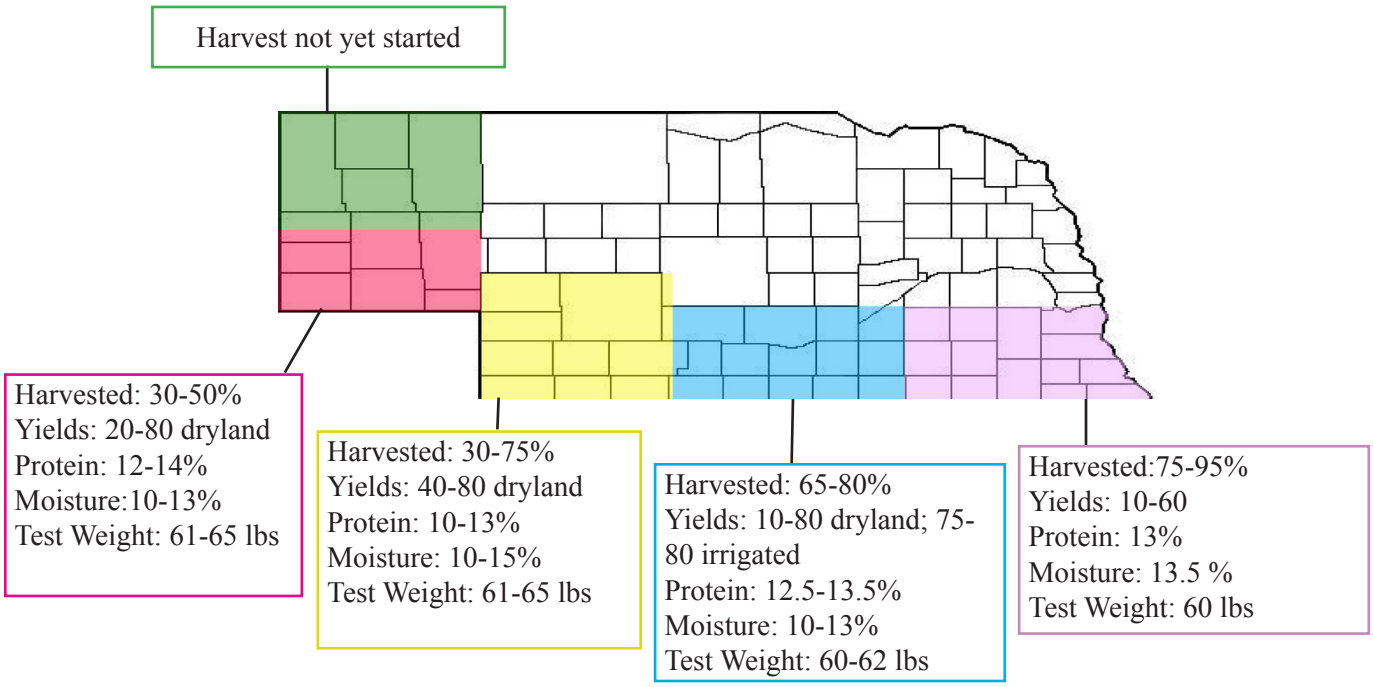
According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, national winter wheat production is forecast at 1.38 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and down 10 percent from 2013. Based on June 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from last month and down 5.0 bushels from last year. National Hard Red Winter production, at 720 million bushels, is down 3 percent from last month.

Wheat harvest continues to progress in southern Nebraska up into the southern Panhandle. In the northern Panhandle, the bulk of wheat harvest is not expected to start for another week. Over the weekend, isolated showers delayed harvest for producers in many regions.

In the southern Panhandle, some producers plan to start harvesting next week, while others are in the midst of harvest. For those who are harvesting, 30 to 50 percent of the crop has been harvested. Producers said the quality of the crop is good. Isolated showers over the weekend forced some producers to delay harvesting. Yields vary from 20 to 80 bushels per acre for dryland wheat. Moisture levels average 10 to 13 percent. Protein levels average 12 to 14 percent. Test weights average 61 to 65 pounds. There have been some reports of smut in select areas.

In the northern part of southwest Nebraska, producers said anywhere from 30 to 75 percent of the crop has been harvested. Showers also delayed harvest for many producers in the region over the weekend, but producers said they expect harvest to pick up again in the next day or two. Yields vary from 40 to 80 bushels per acre for dryland wheat. Moisture levels average 10 to 15 percent. Protein levels average 10 to 13 percent. Test weights average 61 to 65 pounds.

In the southwest corner of Nebraska, harvest continued for producers over the weekend, but isolated showers delayed harvest for part of it. Producers said 65 to 80 percent of the crop has been harvested. Yields vary from 10 to 80 bushels per acre for dryland wheat and 75 to 80 bushels per acre for irrigated wheat. Producers said the crop quality is good. Moisture levels average 10 to 13 percent. Protein levels average 12.5 to 13.5 percent. Test weights average 60 to 62 pounds.

In the southeast corner of Nebraska, showers delayed producers from finishing up harvest over the weekend. They said they expect to finish harvest in the next two to three days and 75 to 95 percent of the crop has been harvested. Yields vary from 10 to 60 bushels per acre. Moisture levels average 13.5 percent. Protein levels average 13 percent. Test weights average 60 pounds.