

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA's May 11, 2015 crop progress report, rain fell statewide with an inch common in central counties and two or more inches of moisture recorded in many eastern and western areas. Rainfall of six to ten inches was received in portions of the southeast, resulting in lowland flooding and soil erosion. Up to two feet of snow fell in portions of the northern Panhandle over the weekend. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 6 percent very short, 17 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 8 percent very short, 23 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 13 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 33 percent good and 3 percent excellent. Winter wheat jointed rated 84 percent complete, well ahead of last year's 51 percent and the 55 percent average.

In the northern Panhandle, producers said most of the area received snow. Snowfall ranged anywhere from 6 to 24 inches. Producers said most of the snow was heavy and wet, providing a few inches of moisture. However, the snow also brought cold temperatures. Producers said wheat in the area is as far along as the boot stage, and while the snow helped protect some of the wheat, there is concern about freeze damage. Temperatures got as low as 26 degrees. Producers also said in areas where they received higher amounts of snow, the weight bent and broke some tillers in wheat fields. Producers in this area said it's too soon to tell what the full effects will be.

In the southern Panhandle, producers also reported receiving snow ranging from 4 to 14 inches. Wheat stage varies across the area, with some in boot stage, some wheat in flag leaf elongation stage. Temperatures in some parts of the region got as low as 24 degrees. Producers are concerned about freeze damage and possible sterility of plants. However, they said it's too soon to determine the full extent of impact from the weather, and they will watch fields closely in the coming week.

Producers in the southwestern part of the state received a mix of light snow and rain. Temperatures in the area got down to freezing, but producers said they didn't drop very far below and as such, they aren't expecting much damage. However, producers in the area are seeing increasing amounts of stripe rust, and say growth stages vary widely not only between fields, but within fields. Some fields are already heading, while others are still in the boot stage, and others are in flag leaf elongation.

In south central Nebraska, producers said they didn't receive any snow, and some areas didn't receive much moisture either, with reports of 0 to .5 inches of rain received. Producers said most of the wheat in the area rates from poor to fair, with heavy winterkill fields already torn out, but remaining fields showing signs of stripe rust. Producers said they are weighing the costs of spraying the wheat for rust versus the benefits with the low commodity prices. Producers also said fields in this area show a lack of uniformity in growth.

In southeastern Nebraska, producers received varying amounts of moisture. Storms brought heavy rains ranging from 1 inch to 8.5 inches of moisture. Producers are keeping an eye on rust as it's been found in some fields in this region. Producers said some wheat in the area looks good, while other fields appear shorter with thinner stands. Producers are hoping for some warmer temperatures to help shoots open for head emergence.