

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA Crop Progress and Condition Report dated May 18, 2015, rainfall of 1 inch or more was common, except for portions of northeast and southwest Nebraska, which received lesser amounts. Lowland flooding was again reported in southeastern counties where fieldwork was at a standstill. Temperatures were cool, averaging 2 to 4 degrees below normal. There were 2.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 6 percent very short, 10 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 7 percent very short, 18 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 13 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Winter wheat jointed rated 93 percent complete, well ahead of 69 percent last year and the 71 percent average. Headed wheat was at 24 percent, ahead of 9 percent last year and the 17 percent average.

In the northern Panhandle, producers said they received 3 to 5 inches of snow along with .50 inches of rain in areas. Temperatures were below average and dipped below freezing. Producers said that there is concern that the heavy snow may have caused stem breakage and that freezing temperatures may have caused damage. Crop conditions vary widely throughout the area. Most in the boot stage and some starting to head.

In the southern Panhandle, producers said they received a variation of moisture ranging from an inch of rain/snow mix to 2 to 3 inches of snow with some freezing temperatures. Producers said that overall the crop is average, and whether the low temperatures and snow has resulted in damage to the crop is yet to be determined. About 30 percent of the crop has headed, with more expected to head with warmer weather. Because of the below average temperatures, minimal rust has been found. But the amount could increase with warmer temperatures and continued moisture.

In the southwest corner of Nebraska, producers said they have also experienced cool temperatures and .60 to over an inch of rain with some hail and snow. Crop condition is fair to good in areas that didn't experience hail damage. Growth stages are uneven, ranging from flag leaf to heading. There is only some stripe rust, but some producers are spraying for it.

In the south central part of Nebraska, producers said that rainfall has been above average, and they received 1 to 1.50 inches. Temperatures have been wet and cool and the crop ranges from poor to good condition, but it is in need of heat. Some areas experienced winter kill and damaging weather, but roughly 70 percent of the crop has headed. Producers said rust is prominent in areas.

In the southeast corner of Nebraska, producers said they have received more rain and are seeing excess water and temperatures that are too cold. Some difficulty heading has been observed by producers as the cold and wet weather has caused the shoot not to open up for the head to emerge. However, about half of the crop has already headed. Much variation is seen, but most of the crop is considered average to good. Producers are seeing much more rust and may have to consider spraying for it.



A snowy wheat field in Hemingford, Nebraska.