

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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For the week ending July 5, 2015, rainfall of 1 inch or more was common across much of the northern half of Nebraska, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures averaged above normal in the western half of the state but below normal in the east. Wheat harvest was underway in south central and southwestern counties, but rain delayed harvest in parts of the southeast. There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 3 percent very short, 16 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 4 percent very short, 14 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 15 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 34 percent good and 2 percent excellent. Winter wheat coloring was at 93 percent, ahead of 84 percent last year but near the 90 percent average. Mature wheat was at 65 percent, well ahead of 34 percent last year and the 42 percent average. Harvested wheat was at 18 percent, ahead of 11 percent last year but behind the 24 percent average.

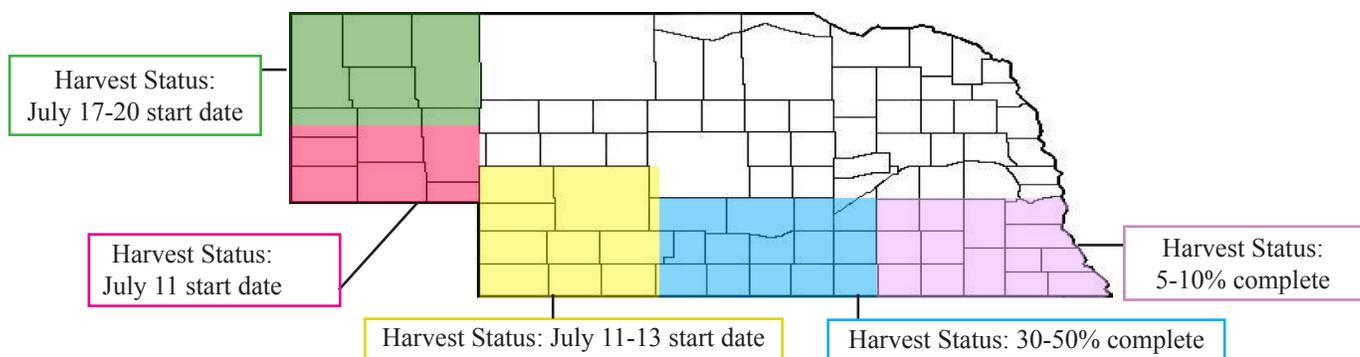
In the northern Panhandle, producers said they are still about 10 days away from harvest, and some green can still be seen in the wheat fields. The crop is in average condition overall, but has suffered some hail damage. Sawflies have been seen in the area, but no issues have been reported concerning sawflies damaging the wheat. The weather was cool and wet, which has prevented fields from drying out in preparation for harvest.

The southern Panhandle has experienced wet conditions but may begin harvest in the lower elevations within a few days if the wet weather does not persist. Higher elevations are still 2 weeks from harvest. Despite receiving some hail, the crop is in good condition overall with only some of the wheat ripening unevenly.

In the southwest corner, producers reported some light rain throughout the week up to .5 inches. The cool and wet weather has delayed the onset of harvest, but producers predict getting started in 3 to 5 days with some test cutting already taking place. The wheat is in fair to good condition despite some negative effects on test weights due to stripe rust.

The south central part of Nebraska received rains throughout the week ranging from .10 to 4 inches accompanied by wind in areas. Harvest is in full swing and is 20 to 50 percent complete. Producers reported dryland yields ranging from 12 to 70 bushels per acre and irrigated yields from 65 to 85 bushels per acre. Test weights reported range from 50 to 64 pounds. Moisture levels were variable throughout the area ranging from 10 to 15 percent. Protein levels were near 11 to 13 percent.

Harvest is 5 to 10 percent complete in the southeast part of Nebraska. The area received 2 to 2.8 inches of rain throughout the week raising moisture levels enough to delay harvest. Producers are reporting variable yields ranging from 15 to 60 bushels per acre, and test weights averaging in the 50s.



Harvest Update for Week Ending July 8