

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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For the week ending June 21, 2015, rainfall of 1 inch or more occurred in many areas with temperatures averaging near normal, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Storms damaged crops in portions of the west with some replanting necessary. Fields too wet to plant were still being reported in portions of the southeast. There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 3 percent very short, 7 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 3 percent very short, 12 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 15 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 33 percent good and 2 percent excellent. Winter wheat coloring was at 69 percent, ahead of 56 percent last year and the 51 percent average. Mature wheat was at 20 percent, ahead of 3 percent last year and the 12 percent average.

In the northern Panhandle, producers said there was a break in the rain, and it was sunny and warm. Damage from hail and standing water in low areas is showing, but overall producers expect an average crop. Rust can be seen but did not show up until after flowering. The wheat is turning, and producers estimate harvest will take place around the 17th of July, which is normal.

The southern Panhandle had warm and dry weather with temperatures into the upper 80s and lower 90s.

Despite the rust, producers reported that the crop still seems to be filling properly and keeps improving with the hot and dry weather. About 35 percent of the crop is considered good to excellent with the rest in fair to poor condition. It is filling and beginning to turn with harvest predicted to begin near July 7.

In the southwest corner, producers received rain and scattered damaging hail. Temperatures were near 80 degrees. Wheat not damaged by hail is in fair to good condition. Rust is prevalent but not severe. The crop is filling and turning with harvest predicted to start in 2.5 to 3 weeks.

In the south central part of Nebraska, producers said they had average temperatures with .6 inches of rain recorded in some areas. The crop is in the hard dough stage with about 15 percent of the crop in poor condition, most of the crop is in fair to good condition and some is in excellent condition despite the rust. Producers estimate that harvest will begin in about 1 week.

In the southeast corner of Nebraska, producers said they have received over 2 inches of moisture in areas with warm temperatures reaching 90 degrees. The crop is in poor to fair condition with yields predicted to be slightly below average. Rust can be found in nearly all acres, and producers are reporting more acres with scab. Harvest is predicted to begin in 1 week to 10 days, which is normal for the area.



A lake front view of turning wheat near Hemingford, Neb.