

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

MAY 18, 2016



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The May 9th USDA Crop Progress Report (compiled by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service) reported that 10 percent of Nebraska winter wheat has headed, up from 1 percent last week. This is above the 7 percent from this time last year, and the five-year average of 8 percent. Topsoil moisture conditions improved over the last week with 81 percent of acres being rated as adequate. 1 percent of topsoil moisture was very short, 3 percent was short, and 15 percent was seen to have a surplus of moisture. Subsoil moisture also has shown positive growth, with 87 percent of the subsoil having adequate moisture; 5 percent of the acres are short on subsoil moisture while the remaining 8 percent of acres had a surplus. Winter wheat conditions were scored as follows: 3 percent Poor, 31 percent Fair, 55 percent Good, and 11 percent Excellent. These condition scores are an improvement compared to last year, where 31 percent of Nebraska's winter wheat crop rated poor or very poor.

In the Northern Panhandle, the last week had temperatures drop below freezing, but no significant damage was thought to have taken place because of it. Over the last ten days, there was an estimated 2 inches of precipitation. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture is seen as adequate. Wheat is in good shape with an average to above average crop being expected. Producers in the area should expect wheat to be headed out completely within the next two weeks. The crop is not currently showing any apparent signs of rust or disease.

The Southern Panhandle has seen a recent streak of precipitation and has a large amount of soil moisture as a result of it. Fields have been wet and have been good for lush and thick wheat. Weeds have

become an issue and producers have concerns that damp areas could lead to a problem with rusts. Producers are also concerned with the cost compared to benefit of spraying because of the currently low commodity price. The wheat is in the boot stage and heading can be expected in the near future.

Damp and cool weather has been the recent norm in the Southwest corner of the state. Forecasts show an increase in temperature for the next ten days which should help the crops continued growth. The recent rain has offered proper soil moisture, but also a concern for rust. Many producers in the area have been spraying as the fields have shown signs of yellowing. Wheat in the area is beginning to head and producers are optimistic for good yields.

Southcentral Nebraska also has had a fair amount of precipitation in the past few days. The soil moisture was seen as excellent. A large majority of wheat in the area has headed. Once again, because of cool and damp weather, fungal disease has been an issue for some operations. Many producers prepared for the problem and have sprayed in advance to avoid some of the possible losses.

A heavy week of rain has also affected the Southeast corner of the state. The soil has plenty of moisture but the damp conditions are causing issues. Producers are concerned with head scab taking over in many of the headed fields are are watching the situation closely. Fields are also experiencing uneven heading caused by some levels of uneven moisture through the early growing season.

