

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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Nebraska Wheat Staff

402-471-2358

wheat.intern@nebraska.gov



For the week ending May 1, 2016, conditions were cool and wet across much of the state according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Snow blanketed the southwest as well as Panhandle counties late in the week, with accumulations of six inches or more recorded in portions of the Panhandle. Statewide rainfall of one to two inches was common with heavier amounts of five inches or more recorded in central Nebraska. Temperatures averaged four to six degrees below normal, topsoil moisture supplies rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 23 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 82 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus. Winter wheat conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 50 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Winter wheat jointed was at 71 percent, well ahead of last year's 42 percent and the 32 percent average. Headed wheat was at 1 percent, near last year's 2 percent and the 3 percent average.

Producers in the northern Panhandle said they received as much as 2-2.25" of moisture in a mix of rain and snow. Very heavy snow fell throughout the weekend, with parts of the region accumulating over 12". The heavy snow caused wheat to lay down and lodge in many areas. Fields with more growth saw snapped tillers from the heavy snows. Early reports had stand losses as high as 20-30% in some areas, but as low as 5% in others. Producers expressed concerns over the effects of varying temperatures that went from below freezing during the weekend to 80 degrees during the week. Some wheat streak mosaic virus and tan spot have been seen in select fields. Producers also expressed a concern over coming disease pressure and profitability of the wheat. Several mentioned fields that had taken stand losses from recent snows and might not yield enough to cover costs of production may be torn out and planted to a different crop.

Producers in the southern Panhandle also received adequate moisture. Higher elevations received as much as 15" of snow, while lower elevation areas received 4-8" of snow. Producers reported wheat that was flattened and lodged from the heavy snows, but said fields were still too wet to adequately scout for tiller breakage in

the western most parts of the region. In the eastern part of the region, producers said the snow was heavy and caused lodging, but stand losses and broken tillers are at 5 percent or less. Much of the flattened wheat is starting to stand back up. Growth ranges based on elevation, but parts of the region reported being a week ahead of normal. Producers said disease pressure isn't predominant yet, primarily due to the cooler temperatures, but some stripe rust has been found.

Southwest Nebraska reported precipitation in the form of rain and snow. Producers in the region reported as much as 7" of snow in areas and .75-2" of moisture. Producers were concerned that temperatures dropped to the mid 20s for four hours prior to snowfall. They said it will likely be another one or two weeks before they could determine if the wheat took freeze damage. The snow that fell was heavy and wet. It caused lodging in areas up to 50% of fields, but producers said most of the wheat that lodged is standing back up. Producers said cool temperatures have helped limit the disease, but they expect to see more with the moist conditions. Some leaf rust and tan spot have been spotted in areas. Producers said they shouldn't need any more significant moisture to finish the crop.

Producers in south Central Nebraska said they received good moisture in the last week, but that disease is apparent and spreading. Producers said they either have or are spraying for stripe rust. They said some fields look deceptively good from the roads, but once you get into them, the disease pressure is more apparent. Growth ranges from normal to as much as a week ahead of schedule. Producers said some parts of the region may start heading within the next week.

The southeastern part of Nebraska received over an inch of rain. Producers estimate nearly 95 percent of fields in the region have stripe rust in them. The severity of rust damage changes from field to field, with some treated fields showing minimal loss and others showing as much as an estimated 50 percent yield loss. Warmer temperatures at the end of winter had fields breaking dormancy early. Many of those fields are close to or are already heading. Producers also expressed concerns over the potential for scab if the region continues to receive moisture while the wheat heads out. No scab has been reported yet, however.

