

NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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The May 18th USDA Crop Progress Report (compiled by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service) reported that 43 percent of Topsoil moisture conditions are very similar to last week with 81 percent of acres being rated as adequate, 3 percent short, and 16 percent having a surplus of moisture. Subsoil moisture also has shown positive growth, with 85 percent of the subsoil having adequate moisture; 3 percent of the acres are short on subsoil moisture while the remaining 12 percent of acres have a surplus. Winter wheat conditions were scored as follows: 5 percent Poor, 29 percent Fair, 55 percent Good, and 11 percent Excellent. The wheat conditions stayed steady across the week but show positive improvement compared to last year. Nebraska winter wheat has headed 43 percent, up from 34 percent last week. This is above the 35 percent from this time last year, and the five-year average of 31 percent.

The Northern Panhandle has continued in a cool and damp state which has increased the fear of rusts and viruses. The good soil moisture has been beneficial for the wheat as it is in the heavy booting stage, but producers are scouting for disease. Some producers have been spraying while others are weighing options due to the cost of spraying with the low commodity prices.

Rust has also been a concern for producers in the Southern

Panhandle with many producers out inspecting and spraying the fields to prevent loss. The weather and conditions have been favorable over the past week with cool mornings and evenings and some sun during the day. Soil moisture has been widely regarded as positive. The wheat is near 50 percent headed. The yield potential has been seen as average to above average.

Southwest Nebraska experienced a cool week to start but has it heated up as of late. Most of the wheat has headed out and the majority of producers have sprayed fungicide to limit rust. It has been a positive week for wheat growth and many of the wheat is seen as good to excellent in condition.

Southcentral Nebraska had a warm week with cool evenings. Wheat is headed out and many producers have been inspecting and controlling rust within their fields. Soil moisture continues to be strong. The wheat in the area is seen as good to excellent condition.

The Southeast Corner of Nebraska has seen dry weather over most of the week with some mixed rain but no significant precipitation. The soil moisture has remained adequate and over 90 percent of the wheat has headed. The producers have not seen any additional large problems with pests or diseases up to this point in the year and expect a good to excellent level crop. Many producers treated for rust earlier this season.

