



NEBRASKA WHEAT CROP REPORT

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According to the USDA NASS crop report for the week ending April 30, 2017, temperatures averaged eight to ten degrees below normal. Moderate snow, averaging two to four inches, was recorded in south central and northeastern counties at the end of the week. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 3 percent very short, 10 short, 71 adequate, and 16 surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 5 percent very short, 15 short, 75 adequate and 5 surplus. Winter wheat condition rated 2 percent very poor, 12 poor, 36 fair, 46 good and 4 excellent. Winter wheat jointed was 55 percent, behind last year's 69, but ahead of the 39 average.

In the Northern Panhandle, producers said the region received snow ranging from a dusting to 8 inches with many areas seeing an average 3 to 5 inches. Most of the snow has already melted, and the region has adequate moisture. Producers said some warmer weather is needed to help the crop now. Wheat that received higher levels of snowfall showed some lodging, and signs of tan spot, rust and Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus (WSMV) have been found in the area. Wheat in the region is jointing, and producers said they're still evaluating the damage from the snow and recent freezes, but don't believe the damage to be as bad as initially feared. However, producers also said if the region received another freeze or snowfall yet this season, it could be very damaging to the wheat crop.

Producers in the Southern Panhandle also reported snowfall ranging from 1 to 5 inches. Snowfall varied based on elevation and location across the region. Producers said the snow did little to no damage in the region, with wheat standing back up again in fields that received snow cover. However WSMV and High Plains Virus have been found in parts of the region, and are severe in some fields. It could take another 2 or 3 weeks to determine the potential yield loss to the disease producers said. Soil moisture levels remain adequate and wheat in the region is jointing or starting early boot stage.

Southwest Nebraska saw the greatest variation in snow fall and crop conditions. Producers in the area reported everything from rain to 16 inches of snow. Snowfall was highest in the southern most counties. Producers in those counties said it was too early to determine the full extent of damage from the storms, but some fields were showing as much as 30-65 percent broken or damaged tillers and unknown damage from freezing temperatures. Wheat lodging was prevalent in fields that received large quantities of snow. However, some areas that received only rain or light amounts of snowfall had wheat that still appeared in good condition producers said. The moisture was welcome, as many parts of the region were needing precipitation. Signs of rust, tan spot and WSMV have been spotted in the area. The wheat is jointing or showing flag leaf depending on the region.

South Central Nebraska saw temperatures drop to around 30 degrees and received up to 3 inches of snow, but producers said there was little damage from the weather. The snow has melted off and soil moisture profiles look good. Wheat in the region is jointing or just starting to show flag leaf. Producers said disease pressures aren't prevalent yet, but they're remaining vigilant as they expect rust to move into the region with the recent wet conditions.

In Southeastern Nebraska, producers said the area received varying amounts of rain in the last week ranging from .75 inches to over 3 inches. Wheat conditions look good, with most wheat jointed or showing signs of flag leaf.

