

# KANSAS WHEAT

March 31, 2011

## *Kansas Wheat Scoop No. 1707:* **Crop Conditions Vary Throughout Wheat Belt**

MANHATTAN, Kan. - Wheat growers throughout the U.S. found that 2010 was a banner year in most locations. The status of the 2011 crop, however, is in doubt, according to producers responding to a query by the International Grains Program and Plains Grains, Inc. during the "Producer Market Awareness Seminar," held March 29-30 in Manhattan. The live seminar and webinar featured crop updates from folks in several states.

The High Plains of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas have been hit hard by drought. According to Jim Shroyer, Extension agronomist with Kansas State University, about 10.1 inches of evapotranspiration (ET = soil moisture plus precipitation) are required to produce the first bushel of wheat in a given acre. After that, each inch of ET produces about 5.5 bushels.

"Since Sept. 1, in southwest Kansas we've had 38% of our normal moisture," says Shroyer, who adds that west central and northwest Kansas are not faring much better (40% and 52% of normal, respectively) and that much of the late-emerging wheat is leafing out underneath the surface in those areas. "Now is the time for wheat to tiller, and we're running out of time and moisture for that to happen," he adds.

The wheat in northwest and west central Kansas could be better than expected, barring any unforeseen weather calamities. The central and eastern Kansas crops also look average to above average. In general, the difference between good-looking wheat and struggling wheat seems to be variability in planting date, and the spotty nature of rainfall events throughout the state since last fall.

Reports from other states include:

- Texas: The good news is that there is minimal disease pressure; the bad news is that there isn't much wheat to begin with. There are some reports of leaf rust and stripe rust, but there is not enough moisture to cause much concern. Every county in Texas - save four - are in some level of drought. At last check, the crop is 62% poor to very poor. Abandonment will be high.
- Oklahoma: Wheat along the I-35 corridor looks good, but wheat in southwest Oklahoma and in the Panhandle may not make anything and could be grazed out. The entire crop is rated 39% poor to very poor. There is some barley yellow dwarf but very little rust development.

- Nebraska: The northern Panhandle has received timely moisture and is one of the better areas of the state. The southern Panhandle is dry and has received very little moisture since January. Spotty stands are prevalent along the southern border. Farmers planted just 1.5 million acres of wheat in Nebraska, one of the lowest totals in memory.
- Colorado: Farmers dusted in their wheat last fall, although subsoil moisture at the time was good. Poor stands caused some winter injury. The crop was recently rated at 51% poor to very poor. The states' farmers planted 2.5 million acres.

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*Kansas Wheat is the cooperative agreement between the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, joining together as "leaders in the adoption of profitable innovations for wheat."*

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For Immediate Release

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