

In The Field With Kansas Wheat

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Kansas Wheat Commission and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

March 25, 2011, Manhattan, KS

LIMITED MOISTURE IMPROVES CROP RATING

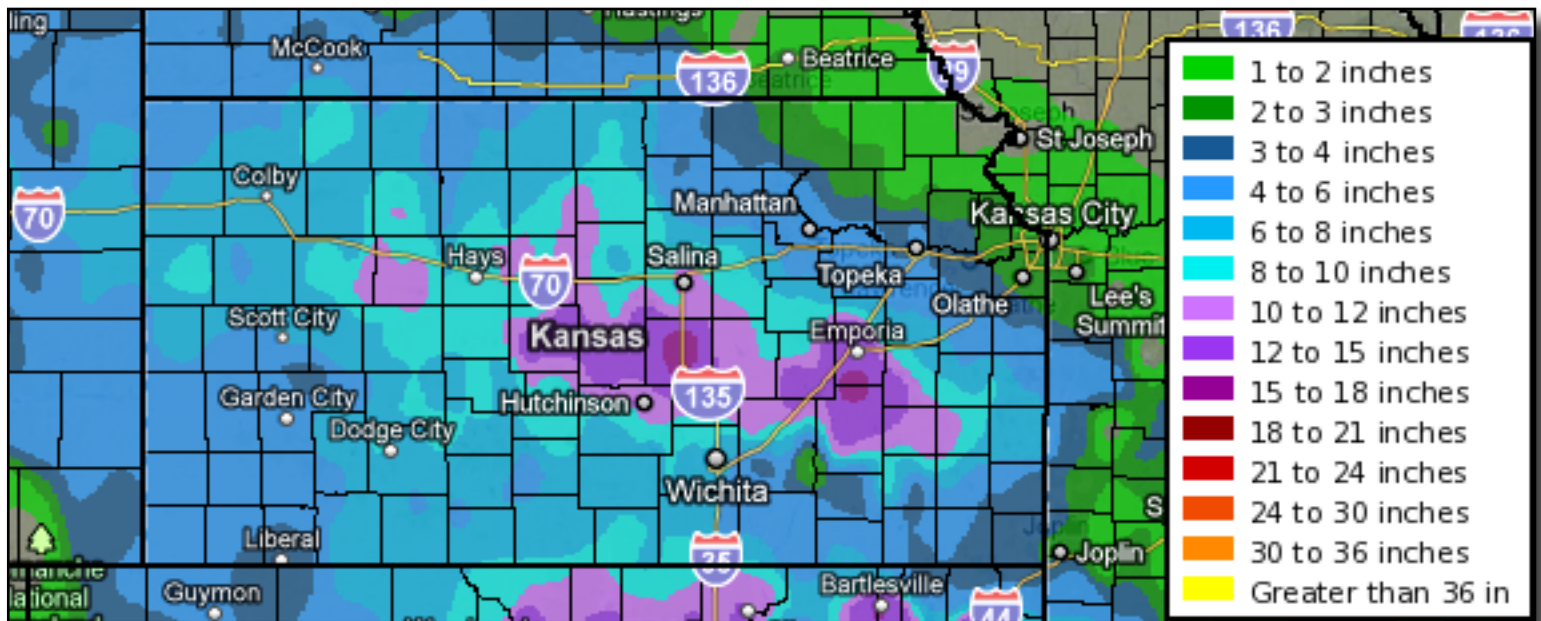
A statewide snowstorm on February 8 provided some much-needed moisture to most areas of the state. Kansas Agricultural Statistics reports on March 21 that the winter wheat condition is still improving with the warm weather and moisture as the crop continues to come out of winter dormancy. The winter wheat is 5 percent jointed as of Sunday, behind last year at 6 percent and the 5-year average of 7 percent. The condition of the crop showed limited improvement with weather last week and was rated at 14 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 25 percent good and 2 percent excellent.

Winterkill was rated at 1 percent severe, 3 percent moderate, 11 percent light, and 85 percent with no damage. Wind damage to the crop declined to 2 percent moderate, 15 percent light and 83 percent with none, as did the freeze damage at 1 percent severe, 3 percent moderate, 15 percent light and 81 percent with none. Small amounts of insect damage have been detected and were rated 5 percent light and 95 percent no damage. Disease infestation similarly was rated 6 percent light damage and 94 percent with none. Soil moisture remains severely deficient in the western districts of the state.



Stafford Co. wheat post Feb. 8 snow storm. (Photo courtesy Randy Fritzemeier)

February 8 Snowfall Totals

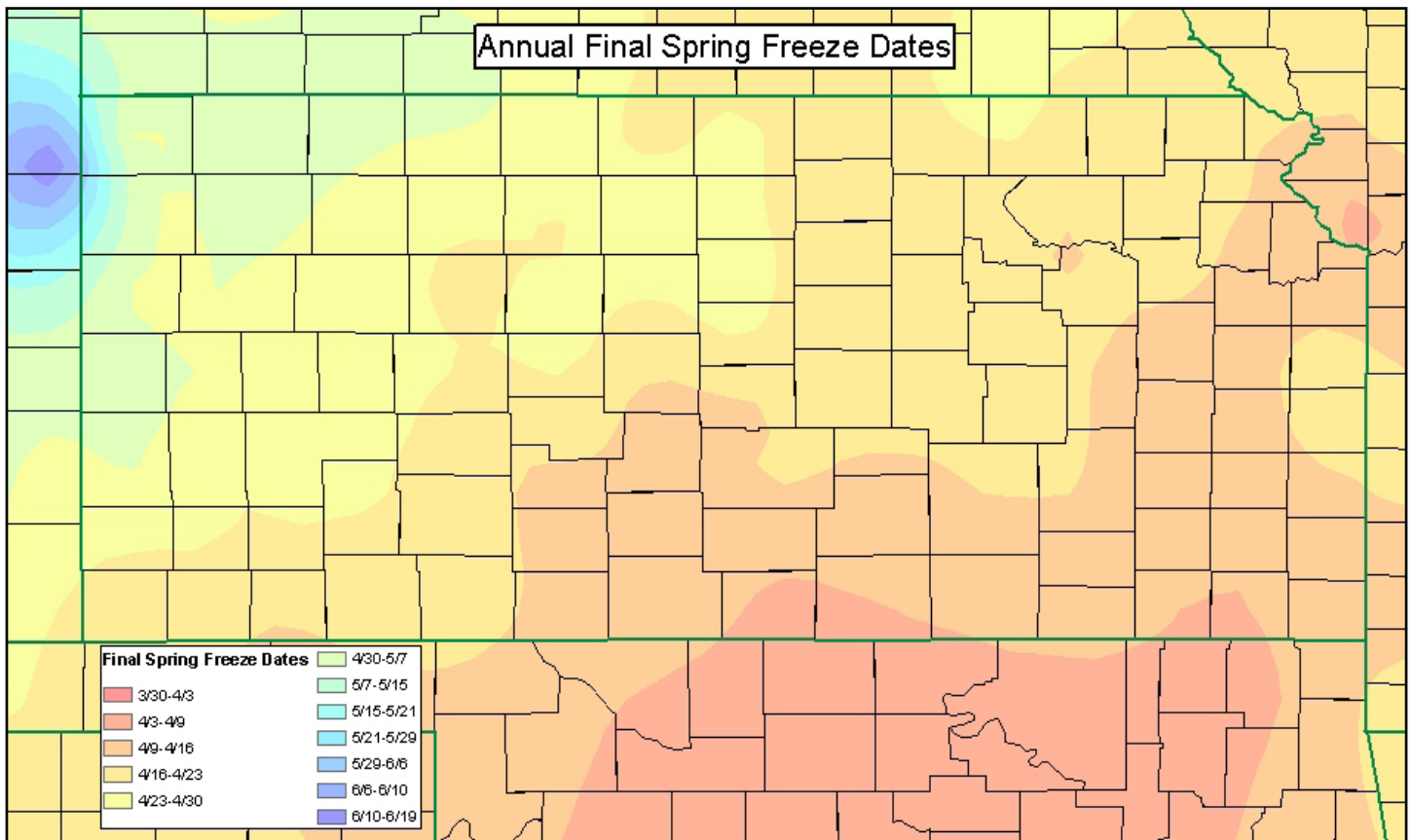


REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Dodge City, March 24: Jim Halling with Pride Ag Resources (formerly Dodge City Coop) reports that Dodge City seems to be the dividing line between average/good wheat to the east and average/poor wheat to the west. However, fields within his own territory vary greatly. Halling reports that fields planted early enough will start jointing within the next 7-10 days, but you can travel a few miles down the road and find a field that hasn't even emerged. Early planted wheat in his western counties greened up early but started going backwards fast, because they ran out of moisture. A few recent scattered rains have put the breaks on the decline temporarily. Halling also reports there are differences as you go north to south. Fields in the Bucklin and Kingsdown areas received good fall moisture and the wheat is in good shape, but further south towards the Oklahoma border, conditions are much worse. The variability extends to within a specific field also where some spots may have green, lush, growing wheat with plants just emerging in other spots - effectively, two different crops in the same field. Overall, Halling expects average yields of 20-35 bushels per acre compared with 50-60 bushel yields which have been realized the past few years. Due to favorable insurance rates, he doesn't expect much abandonment. Things are really greening up with the recent warmth, and farmers are applying topdress fertilizer to push the existing wheat to produce tillers. They have slim chances of rainfall this weekend into early next week.

Colby, March 24: Variability is the word of choice in Northwest Kansas also according to Brian Olson, Northwest Area Extension Crops and Soils Specialist. The Colby location did receive six inches of snow on March 8, but has only had 0.44 inches of moisture since March 1. Olson says the best fields with decent stands are along the Highway 36 corridor with some nice wheat in Thomas County and from the Tribune to Leotti areas. There is good subsoil moisture, but the late planted wheat doesn't have a good enough root structure to reach it. The wheat is starting to green up, but recent windy days have stressed the crop. Olson expects the wheat to start jointing from April 5-15. The forecast for this weekend is cool with chances of rain. Low temperatures have been around freezing.

[Register now for the 2010 Wheat Quality Council Hard Red Winter Wheat Tour. Tour dates are May 2-5.](#)
[Go to www.wheatqualitycouncil.org](http://www.wheatqualitycouncil.org) for registration information.



RIGHT: Green wheat in Sedgwick Co. on March 11. (Photo courtesy Scott Van Allen)



BELOW: Blowing soil in Southwest Kansas on March 23. (Photo courtesy Neal Driscoll)



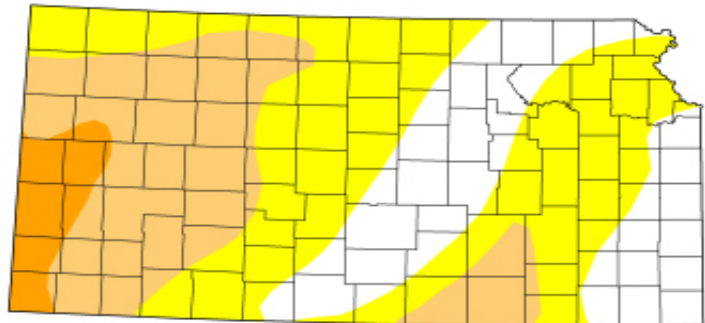
U.S. Drought Monitor

Kansas

March 15, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	26.06	73.94	33.06	5.46	0.00	0.00
Last Week (03/08/2011 map)	20.48	79.52	38.30	3.55	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (12/14/2010 map)	36.21	63.79	21.97	2.56	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	17.82	82.18	43.85	3.48	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	83.23	16.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (03/09/2010 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



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In The Field With Kansas Wheat is a publication of the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers: 217 Southwind Place, Manhattan, KS 66503, 1-866-75WHEAT
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