

Wheat harvest gets its start over holiday weekend

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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With the hot, dry weather combines are hitting the fields across southwest Nebraska, including these two combines in a field south of Enders. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

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The 4th of July weekend saw more than fireworks, barbecues and water-sports, around Wauneta. It also featured the beginning of wheat harvest.

Frenchman Valley Coop in Wauneta reported loads of wheat coming in starting the evening of Friday, July 5.

Dennis, Colleen and Billy Goings operate a custom harvest business as well as farm their own ground on the north divide.

Colleen said they began harvesting fields on the south divide on Saturday, July 6.

So far, the fields they've harvested, most of which are on the south divide, have seen an average of 25-30 bushels per acre yield.

As of Sunday, FVC in Wauneta had received 69,230 net bushels of wheat and the entire FVC cooperative had received 588,260 net bushels.

The wheat that's been unloaded in Wauneta has shown an average test weight of 62.37, an average moisture of 11.74 and a protein average of 13.88 said Cindy Fischer at FVC in Wauneta.

Colleen indicated that wheat harvest is just getting its start as of Monday.

She said they've seen a lot of variance within the same field—some fields still have a lot of green in them where the wheat didn't all come up or head out at the same time.

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According to Colleen, wheat on the south divide tends to be ready a few days before that on the north divide.

However, nowadays she said that's not always the case, citing the differing varieties as a possible cause for the change in the trend.