

Harvest trucks full of wheat were lined up everywhere Friday afternoon as harvest was in full swing in Sherman County.

# Damp weather slows harvest; above-average yields reported

progress of the winter wheat harvest.

In its weekly crop-weather report Monday, Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said the harvest was 92 percent complete – roughly average for this time of year.

Northwestern Kansas continues to lag the rest of the state in the harvest. Less than half the wheat has been cut in that region.

Cooler than normal temperatures coupled with high humidity have slowed harvest progress in the area. However, farmers in the

come in as high as 13.5 percent.

Government statisticians have near record yields.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service forecast on Friday that the of the Kansas corn crop as 14 perstate will cut 369 million bushels from the winter wheat crop. That and 20 percent fair. About 6 peris up 5 percent from last month's cent was rated in poor to very poor forecast.

The new forecast is down less

WICHITA (AP) - Damp weath- Colby area are reporting yields than 1 percent from last year's er across Kansas has slowed the from 50 to 85 bushels per acre crop because Kansas farmers are with 62 to 65 pound test weights. cutting just 8.2 million acres – Some of the protein levels have about 600,000 fewer acres than last season.

> Yields are expected to average raised their projections for this about 45 bushels an acre. That year's Kansas winter wheat crop would be the highest yield since as the ongoing harvest brings in 2003 and the fifth highest yield on record.

> > The agency rated the condition cent excellent, 60 percent good condition.

### Expert gives tips for flood recovery

This year's soggy spring and early summer left Presley, a soil and water management specialist. some farm fields flooded, leaving land owners to wonder how to handle the aftermath.

"When flood water recedes, a landowner may find that some new 'organic matter' has been left on the field, in the form of woody debris," said Kansas State University agronomist DeAnn Presley. "This woody debris can easily be up to 2 to 3 inches in diameter, or more. In many cases, it will be too scattered to burn. The main risks of woody debris include damage to harvest equipment and during planting."

Branches more than 3 inches in diameter won't decompose well and might wedge into planter, and short logs could pose a hazard to combines, said

He offered several possible solutions:

• Residue managers or row cleaners on a planter might be able to move smaller debris out of the way. Take the planter to the field as early as possible to test whether or not it can open and close the furrow without plugging repeatedly. Strip-tillage equipment may also be able to move woody debris out of the row.

• If it is not practical to pick up residue by hand, a harrow or drag could be used to collect or windrow it into piles for pickup or burning in place.

• If none of this works, some type of cutting tillage such as a disk may be the only alternative.





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