

Kansas Wheat Harvest Report

This is Day 11 of the 2012 Kansas Wheat Harvest Reports, brought to you by the Kansas City Board of Trade, the Kansas Grain & Feed Association, the Kansas Wheat Commission and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

Already, the 2012 wheat harvest in east and central Kansas appears to be winding down, while farmers in west central Kansas are just shifting into high gear.

Gale Baxa at the Cloud County Coop in Concordia says harvest is about 75% complete and could be finished mid-week, weather permitting. The crop has been about average overall, with yields ranging from 20 to 70 bushels per acre. Protein is about 11.5 and test weight averages 60 pounds. The Concordia location has taken in close to 1 million bushels.

Kansas Wheat Commission Chairman Rich Randall is searching for dry fields this weekend, but harvest got into full swing at the Scott County Coop last week; the company had taken in 280,000 bushels as of Friday. Randall says area farmers expect yields between 20 and 50 bushels per acre. So far, test weights have averaged 60 pounds or higher and the variety Tam 111 appears to be performing very well.

Deb Miller at the Farmers Union Mercantile in Stockton says harvest ramped up last week, but slowed as farmers had cut all the ready wheat by Saturday. Activity picked up Sunday afternoon. Early on, farmers report good test weights, but yields range from 10 to 50 bushels per acre, with most fields averaging about 40. Early protein is 11.2. Miller says the company will take in more wheat than last year, but it will be a below-average crop overall.

Harvest is nearing completion at the Farmers Coop in Manhattan, according to grain merchandiser Doug Biswell. Farmers report yields ranging from 30 to 60 bushels per acre, with test weights averaging 62 pounds per bushel and protein, 11.5. Biswell says the company will handle about 350,000 bushels of wheat, which is 30% more than last year.

Justin Knopf, KAWG director from Salina, finished harvesting Saturday. He says crop yields varied from 45 to 65 bushels per acre, and averaged 50; test weights averaged 60.5 pounds per bushels and protein was about 11. The variety Everest was his best performer. Knopf says this year's crop produced a tremendous amount of straw; as such, many farmers are hoping to add value to the wheat crop by baling the straw.