

Kansas wheat farmers still assessing April blizzard damage

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Wheat farmers in western Kansas and eastern Colorado are still evaluating the crop damage caused by a late April blizzard.

Bends and kinks in the plants won't allow them to pull up moisture as hot, dry weather approaches, Vance Ehmke, a Dighton, Kan., farmer, said.

Twenty inches of snow fell in some areas the last week of April, said Justin Gilpin, CEO of the Kansas Wheat Commission.

"With wind and things drying out, a lot of the stems are starting to break just because they're frail and have been weakened," Gilpin said.

He said he's not certain how much of the crop has been damaged.

The commission encourages farmers to contact crop insurance agents to evaluate their fields, Gilpin said.

"There's nothing you can really do right now except worry as fast as you can," Ehmke said. All of his wheat lodged and was buried by a foot of snow for two days.

He estimates 1 million to 2



Capital Press File

Wheat growers in western Kansas are still worried whether their crop will survive damage from a late April blizzard.

million acres of wheat in 15 Kansas counties, eastern Colorado and the northern Texas panhandle are at risk.

Jason Ochs, a farmer in Syracuse, Kan., said most of his wheat popped up again after the first snow melted, but another storm laid a lot of it back down.

Under crop insurance requirements he has to destroy the wheat by June 1 to replant, he said. Ochs hopes for an extension on the deadline.

Ochs will now plant more acres of grain sorghum than he originally planned. The changes make cash flow

tougher and will throw off his crop rotation, he said.

"I feel comfortable I'll make it," he said. "I might have to get creative on financing."

Other farmers aren't set up for sorghum or other crops.

"I don't know what their options are going to be, honestly," he said.

The region is too hot for spring wheat, Gilpin said.

Growers are also contending with an outbreak of wheat streak mosaic virus.

"We're getting a combination of things hitting us pretty hard," Ochs said.

Washington FFA adviser departing

Wallace to lead state's career, technical education program

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Rebecca Wallace, Washington state FFA adviser for the past four years, has a new job.

She is the new executive director of career and technical education programs in the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

She will continue as FFA adviser until a replacement is named.

"My roots are in ag, I'm a product of FFA, I'm a product of ag education," Wallace said. "I've really, truly enjoyed working with the teachers, directors and the students across the state to advance agricultural education."

Wallace hopes to lead by example in her new position.

"If you have the ability to impact on a greater level, then you have the responsibility to do your best to try," she said. "We've been able



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Washington FFA adviser Rebecca Wallace waves to the audience after being recognized during the Washington State FFA Convention May 13 in Pullman, Wash. She is the new executive director for the state Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction's career and technical education program.

to do some great things in agriculture. I've certainly appreciated the support from the ag teachers and ag industry in general."

Wallace said FFA has begun strategic planning for the future of agricultural education in the next 10 to 15 years. She also pointed to FFA's relationships with Washington State University and the industry.

"I'm really proud of the team we've built," she said. "I'm proud of being able to bring to light some of the great things we already had been doing and growing

and starting some new programs."

Wallace has had an "unbelievable" and "immeasurable" impact on FFA, said Abbie DeMeerleer, executive director of the Washington FFA Association.

"She has been a tireless advocate," DeMeerleer said. "She's been innovative, creative and very supportive of new initiatives of diverse growth in our organization, helping us look and grow forward."

Wallace said she plans to continue to support FFA in her new capacity.

Bill seeks to double export promotions

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

A bill to double the funding of USDA's Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Program has been introduced in Congress by Reps. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., and Chellie Pingree, D-Maine.

HR 2321, the Cultivating Revitalization by Expanding American Agricultural Trade and Exports Act, is intended to help U.S. agriculture better compete globally. It would double the funding for the two programs over five years.

Newhouse and Pingree say it would be a fractional increase in the USDA budget and would provide an "enormous return" for agriculture and the U.S. economy.

"As a former state director of agriculture, I understand what it takes to market and sell American products to international buyers. These programs are critical to helping producers compete overseas," Newhouse said in a news release.

MAP and FMDP funding has been static since the 2002 Farm Bill and has been eroded by inflation, administrative costs and sequestration, the two sponsors said.

Meanwhile, the European Union and other competitors have ramped up export promotions.

The EU is spending \$255.3 million to promote wine alone in 2017, more than the U.S. spends on commodity promotions through MAP and FMDP combined, Newhouse and Pingree said.

"If this trend continues, American producers will be severely disadvantaged in the global marketplace," they said.

Slightly over \$173 million is allocated through MAP in fiscal year 2017 to 65 commodity groups. The Cotton Council International receives the most at \$14.9 million. The U.S. Meat Export Federation is a close second at \$13.3 million.

Among the largest West Coast recipients, the Western U.S. Agriculture Trade Association receives \$6.8 million, the Wine Institute \$6.6 million, U.S. Wheat Associates \$6 million, the Washington Apple Commission \$4.8 million and the California Walnut Commission receives \$4.2 million.

FMDP is allocating \$26.6 million in 2017 to 23 groups, many of the same ones that receive MAP funding.

MAP was created in 1985

and awards groups money for support of trade shows, market research, consumer product promotion and technical assistance for support of exports.

There is a 10 percent minimum funding match for groups for generic promotions and a 50 percent minimum for brand-specific efforts.

FMDP, created in 1955, also requires funding matches, and is used for many of the same promotions, mostly for generic, bulk commodities and helps agricultural trade associations maintain a permanent presence in consumer nations.

A 2016 study headed by Texas A&M University found the programs generated a net return of \$28.30 for every dollar invested between 1977 and 2014 and have added an annual average of \$8.15 billion to the value of American agricultural exports and \$8.7 billion to farm cash receipts.

Doubling funding coupled with increasing matching funds from 10 to 50 percent would result in average annual gains in GDP of \$4.5 to \$6 billion under a less than full employment scenario, the study said.

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The West's Ag Weekly

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Newsday Crossword GARDEN SHOPPING by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS	DOWN	12 "... of ___ I sing"	43 Hot tar, for example
1 Mark on a Dalmatian	1 Paid out	13 Drains of strength	48 Took a chance on
5 Spill the beans	2 Blender setting	21 ___ and breakfast inn	50 Have a meal
9 Helpful clues	3 Hunter constellation	25 Pitched a tent, say	52 Argentina neighbor
14 Untainted	4 Most high-schoolers	27 Convertible car, slangily	54 Make speeches
15 Money in Italy	5 Boyfriend	28 Glide on snow	55 Pass along
16 Waikiki greeting	6 Temporary calm	30 Break sharply	56 City near Phoenix
17 One of the Great Lakes	7 Most Jordanians	31 ___ time (never)	57 Long-eared beasts of burden
18 "That's a shame!"	8 Staff supervisors	32 Figures out	58 "Not guilty," for one
19 Audio censor's sound	9 Customary	33 Otherwise	59 Package of paper
20 Bright tubular lights	10 Woes	34 Rental units: Abbr.	60 Make less difficult
22 Spots of land in the sea	11 Christmas carol	35 Speak hoarsely	61 Biblical garden
23 Nervous		36 Audible bounceback	63 "My treat!"
24 Religious group		37 Similar (to)	64 Self-images
26 AMA members		39 Hill-building insect	
29 Tubular breakfast meat		42 Ammo storehouses	
34 Region			
38 Alias: Abbr.			
40 Fireplace shelf			
41 Consumer product factories			
44 Souvenir garment			
45 Stocking's tip			
46 Model's stance			
47 TV advertiser			
49 Poem of praise			
51 Long heroic tale			
53 Major blood vessel			
58 Fuss at a mirror			
62 Shape-saving footwear inserts			
65 "You can ___ horse to water ..."			
66 Royal ruler			
67 Charitable donations			
68 Artist's stand			

(See answers in Class 750)