

Subject: Big Harvest? Not North Dakota Wheat

Story Summary: Untimely rains and surplus moisture damaged the durum wheat crop in North Dakota. Some of it won't yield enough to pay for harvest. Consequently, some farmers are burning what's left to clear fields for another try next season.

TRT: 1:42

Suggested Lead: Weather and disease damage to North Dakota's durum wheat crop has caused some farmers to clear fields by means other than combining. Tom Steever reports.

Suggested Supers: Ramsey County, North Dakota
@ :01

Paul Becker
North Dakota Wheat Farmer
@ :13

Ronald Howitz
North Dakota Grain Buyer
@ 1:03

Julie Schemionek
North Dakota Crop Insurance Agent
@ 1:21

Tom Steever Reporting
@ 1:30

Big Harvest? Not North Dakota Wheat
Tom Steever Reporting
October 26, 2000

<p>Smoke and haze</p> <p>Ramsey County, North Dakota</p> <p>Man and fire</p> <p>Rack focus of wheat</p>	<p>VO/ FIRES DOT THE NORTH DAKOTA LANDSCAPE THIS FALL. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE FIRES ARE STARTED TO CLEAR WEEDS, SOME OF THOSE FIRES ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF A DISAPPOINTING DURUM WHEAT GROWING SEASON.</p>
<p>Paul Becker North Dakota wheat farmer</p> <p>c/u of wheat Ecu of wheat</p>	<p>SOT/ "We've had a problem with scab, it's a fungal disease that, if it rains when it's heading then we have a tendency to get scab, depending upon conditions. And this year probably was one of the worst conditions for it.</p>
<p>Z/out of wheat</p>	<p>VO/ ADD TO THAT THREE WEEKS OF RAIN JUST WHEN THE WHEAT WAS READY TO HARVEST. THAT BROUGHT ON HEAVY SPROUT DAMAGE.</p>
<p>Sprout damage Testing wheat</p>	<p>SOT/ "Sprout is when the seed actually starts to grow. It breaks the end of the kernel out and the sprout comes out."</p>
	<p>VO/ SPROUT DAMAGE COMBINED WITH FUNGAL SCAB, VOMITOXIN AND REDUCED TEST WEIGHT SEVERELY CUT THE MARKET VALUE OF THE DURUM WHEAT. WHEN IT'S FREE OF DAMAGE, DURUM IS MOST COMMONLY USED TO MAKE PASTA.</p>
<p>Bad grain samples Bad grain</p> <p>Ronald Howitz North Dakota grain buyer</p> <p>Good grain</p>	<p>SOT/ "We got three samples here of durum that was after all this rain. This one sample we sent in to the state grain inspection and that's at thirty-six-point-six percent damage in it. This is a sample of durum that was taken off before any of the rain and you see there's a lot better color in that."</p>
<p>Becker gets in tractor</p>	<p>VO/ WHILE BECKER AND OTHER DURUM GROWERS WAIT FOR</p>

	ADJUSTERS TO LOOK AT INSURED FIELDS, CROP INSURANCE AGENTS ARE PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION.
Julie Schemioneck North Dakota crop insurance agent	SOT/ "Farmers are wanting answers they don't know whether it's worth turning the combine wheel to go get the crop or whether it's worth abandoning and plowing under or burning up."
Wheat field Tom Steever reporting Fire Smoke and haze	VO/ IF THE DAMAGED CROP IS NOT BURNED, THE VEGETATION IS TOO THICK TO SEED NEXT SEASON. SO THIS FALL SMOKE IS A COMMON SIGHT ON THE HORIZON. NEAR DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA, I'M TOM STEEVER.