

**Subject:** Farmers Challenged by Markets, Weather

**Story Summary:** With luck wheat producers get their crop harvested before it is destroyed by violent storms. But much of the crop's value is at the mercy of conditions outside the U.S.

**TRT:** 1:44

**Suggested Lead:** Wheat growers are anxious to get the harvest done but they're concerned about what the crop will be worth on the export market. Tom Steever reports.

**Suggested Supers:** Deuel County, Nebraska  
@ :02

Milt Rogers  
Nebraska Farmer  
@ :23

John Skorburg  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
@ :31

Tom Steever  
Reporting  
@ 1:34

**Farmers Challenged by Markets and Weather**  
**Tom Steever reporting**  
**July 26, 2001**

<p>Wheat pan to combine</p> <p><b>Deuel County, Nebraska</b></p> <p>Moving with combine</p>	<p>VO/  AS THE WHEAT HARVEST MOVES NORTHWARD THROUGH AMERICA'S HEARTLAND, PRODUCERS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR DEPENDENCE ON WEATHER AND MARKETS.</p>
<p>Rogers sot</p> <p>Combine cab/reel</p>	<p>SOT/  "In wheat farming, hard red winter wheat, we get to worry about this crop for ten months out of the year. We plant it in September, harvest it in July."</p>
<p><b>Milt Rogers</b>  <b>Nebraska Farmer</b></p> <p>Behind combine reel</p>	<p>SOT/  "The economy in general is pretty soft in agriculture in this area, particularly hard red winter wheat. Most of it finds its way into export markets and the domestic use is just not enough to cover all the production that we have in this country."</p>
<p><b>John Skorburg</b>  <b>American Farm Bureau Federation</b></p> <p>Trucks at elevator</p>	<p>SOT/  "One out of every two acres that are planted in wheat this year in the United States will be exported and sold into foreign markets, so that's how international trade is very, very important to agriculture in the United States."</p>
<p>Trucks at elevator</p> <p>Truck entering elevator</p> <p>Opening trap</p> <p>Ladies testing wheat</p>	<p>VO/  ALTHOUGH A BENEFIT TO SOME PARTS OF THE ECONOMY, THE NATION'S FARMERS ARE TROUBLED BY THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. DOLLAR.</p>
<p>Rogers sot</p> <p>Elevator workers cleaning wheat samples</p>	<p>SOT/  "It's very strong and it makes it difficult to sell whatever commodity that the United States produces to those world markets because it is just more expensive to buy that with the currency of the country that we're trying to trade with."</p>

Milt starts auger motor Hand to throttle Hand on throttle and off Milt motioning	VO/ DESPITE INADEQUATE COMMODITY PRICES, ROGERS FEELS THERE IS MORE TO THE CURRENT WEAKNESS IN THE FARM ECONOMY.
Rogers sot	SOT/ “Farm income, generally for most people has been higher than previous to Freedom to Farm in 1996 – more dollars. But the problem that comes in is that the expenses have exaggerated faster than the income.”
Milt walking through chaff  <b>Tom Steever  Reporting</b>  Combine and truck pass	VO/ FOR MILT ROGERS AND FOR MANY OTHER PRODUCERS, IT’LL BE EXPENSES, THE STRONG DOLLAR AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT DETERMINE HOW WELL THEY DO ONCE THIS YEAR’S HARVEST IS IN. IN DEUEL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, I’M TOM STEEVER.