

Harvest time rolls around, showing disappointing results

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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One of the Strand's fields located on Highway 6 finished with harvest. (Christi Christner | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Christi Christner

The Wauneta Breeze

It's that time of year again. Time for visits to pumpkin patches, bringing out the heavier coats and warming up with hot chocolate. Along with the brisk winds and leaves turning comes corn harvest.

This year, the corn has endured a beating much like 2012. With the drought that lasted most of the summer many farmers' corn has been damaged.

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Although the majority of Nebraska's corn acres has irrigation systems almost 30 percent of southwest Nebraska fields are dry land.

With the extremely dry weather some farmers are cutting thousands of acres of burned-out dry land corn for silage.

According to University of Nebraska Lincoln's agriculture department, 70 percent of Nebraska is in severe to exceptional drought zones, putting a third of the state into a deep drought.

Some nearby dry land fields are putting out 20-25 bushels while others are putting out 40-50.

Although this year's dry land corn yields seem to be struggling it is an improvement from last year's harvest.

"There has been hail damage found in a lot of farmers' fields this year which was disappointing. The yields in irrigated fields are better than most dry land fields." Steve Christner states.

Not only is it time for corn harvest, soybeans, sunflowers and milo are crops that are either coming to a close or just starting with harvest.

This year has been somewhat of a disheartening experience this year. One can only pray and hope for the upcoming years to be more plentiful.