

County Agent News
“All Around the Farm”
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May 18, 2015



Two and one half inches of rain in the Bowbells area along with traces of accumulated snow! Great moisture for the pastures and hay land but too much for some of the cropland. Seeding conditions have been good but this will leave some drowned out spots. The good news about the rain is that it should help protect some of the emerged crops from the Sunday night frost. As I write this on Monday morning I am much more worried about the Monday night/Tuesday morning frost after the plants have dried off on Monday. Spring frost damage to field crops is very hard to predict before a frost event. The crop species, the crop growth stage, the weather preceding a frost event, surface moisture, and even crop variety can make a difference.

Our cereal grains like wheat and barley will have their growing point below the surface until jointing so even if they lose leaf tissue they should recover. Peas and lentils also have growing points below ground and can also recover from frost damage. Soybeans, canola and flax are the crops of concern. Most producers have held off on soybean planting but there is a lot of emerged canola and some emerged flax. Producers will want to monitor fields for damage.

Further information can be found online at: <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/winterstorm/winter-storm-information-farm-and-ranch-information/farm-and-ranch-crops-general/spring-frost-damages-to-field-crops> or just google NDSU spring frost damage to crops