North Dakota State University
CROP & PEST REPORT
NDSU EXTENSION

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Hello, this concludes the 2026 publication season of the Crop & Pest Report. Thank you for reading, and we look forward to bringing you more crop and pest management updates in January 2027. Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2026 GETTING IT RIGHT CROP PRODUCTION WEBINARS!



It's nearly time for the 2026 to 2027 Getting It Right (GIR) Crop Production Webinar Series to begin. Register now for the Getting It Right Webinars! The GIR Webinars will take place on these dates:

December 2, 2026 – GIR Soybean
December 15, 2026 – GIR Corn
January 22, 2027 – GIR Sunflower
February 2, 2027 – GIR Flax
February 23, 2027 – GIR Dry Bean
March 4, 2027 – GIR Pulse Crops
March 17, 2027 – GIR Canola

All webinars begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. By registering now, a webinar link will be sent a few days before each webinar for which you have registered.

Seven 25-minute presentations will be given at each GIR Webinar. Presentation topics include agronomics, weed management, insect management, disease management, and marketing during each webinar, plus two additional topics depending on the webinar. Certified Crop Advisers Continuing Education Units of 3.5 hours are available for each webinar.

All webinars are free due to the financial support from the North Dakota Soybean Council, North Dakota Corn Utilization Council, National Sunflower Association, Ameriflax, Northarvest Bean Growers Association, Northern Pulse Growers Association, and Northern Canola Growers Association. Please thank these North Dakota commodity groups for supporting our collaborative webinar series, and register for any or all of these informative NDSU Extension webinars.

Jeff Stachler
NDSU Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
Carrington Research Extension Center

entomology

HESSIAN FLY TRAPPING 2026

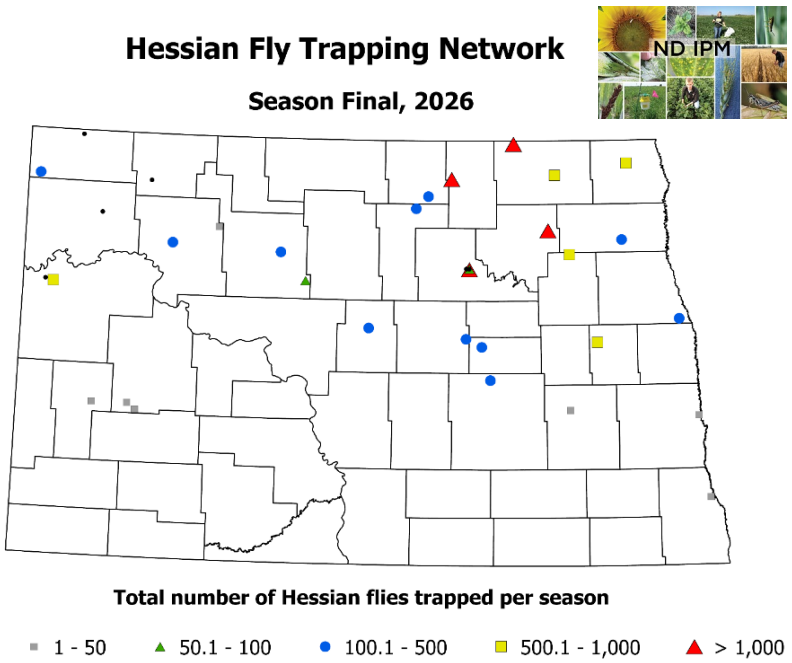
A pheromone trapping network for Hessian fly was coordinated by the IPM Crop Survey Program in 2026. IPM scouts and insect trappers monitored 38 trapping sites across 27 counties in North Dakota. Hessian fly is an economically important insect pest of wheat (all types – spring, winter, durum) in North Dakota. Other hosts are barley, rye, triticale, winter rye, and winter barley. Volunteer wheat and wild grasses (quackgrass, ryegrass) can also be infested by Hessian fly.



Adult Hessian fly (Scott Bauer, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org)

Trapping results indicate that these flies are present throughout the wheat-growing areas of North Dakota (see map and Table). A total of 13,855 Hessian flies were captured on sticky trap bottoms monitored by IPM insect trappers from June through late August 2026 (near wheat harvest). An average of 365 Hessian flies were captured per trap site. Actual monitoring dates varied for each trap site. This is the third year in a row with high numbers of Hessian flies, with 16,247 at 33 trapping sites in 2025 and 12,530 at 27 trapping sites in 2024. 2024 was the first year of the increased number of Hessian flies captured.

The northeast region of North Dakota had the highest trap catches of over 1,000 total Hessian flies per trap per season, including Cavalier, Nelson, Ramsey and Towner counties, about 11% of the trap sites. About 13% of the trap sites had 500.1-1,000 total Hessian flies per trap per season. Most trap sites had between 100.1 and 500 Hessian flies per trap per season, accounting for about 29% of trap sites. This still is a fairly high number. The remaining sites, about 26% of the total, had between 1 and 100 total flies per trap per season. No Hessian flies were captured at 8 sites (21%).



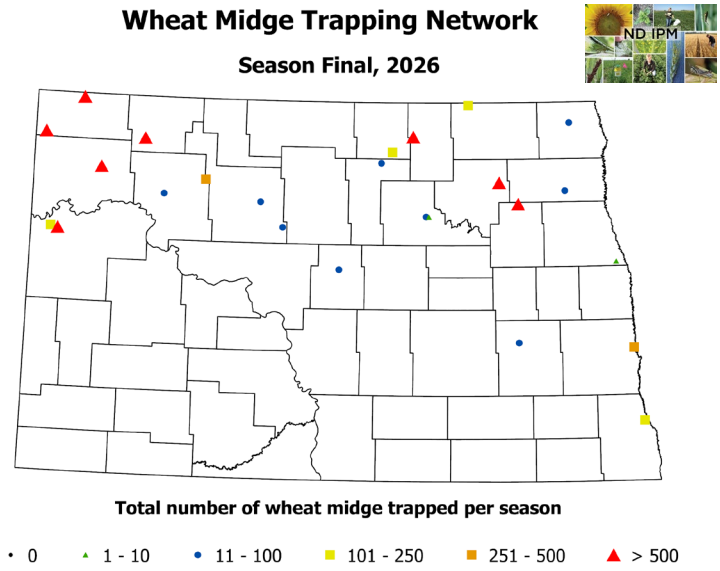
Thanks to the North Dakota Wheat Commission, the USDA NIFA CPPM EIP grant, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture CAPS Program for support.

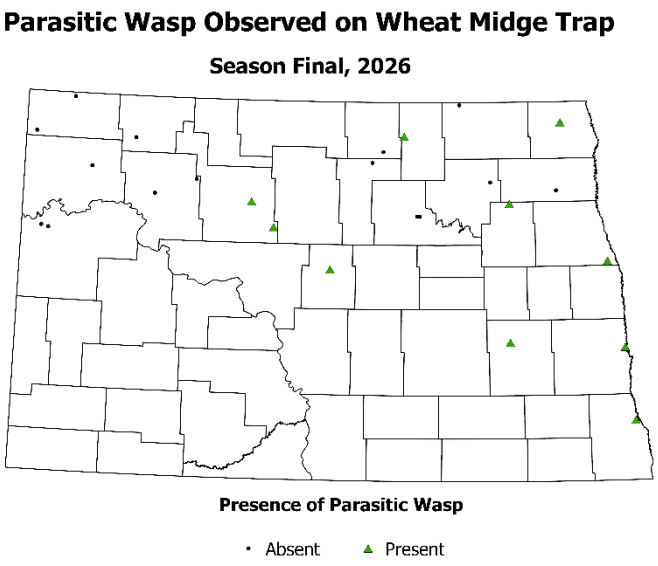
WHEAT MIDGE TRAPPING 2026

Wheat midge pheromone traps (Figure 1) indicate adult emergence and provide an 'early warning' system to trigger field scouting when the crop is in the susceptible stage of heading to mid-flowering. Trapping documents the distribution and population levels of the wheat midge, the presence of parasitoids and the need for field scouting for IPM decision-making.



Figure 1. Green delta pheromone trap for monitoring wheat midge.





A total of 25 pheromone traps were monitored in 20 counties in North Dakota in 2026. Traps showed the presence of the wheat midge and its parasitic wasp at each trap site (Table 1 and maps). A total of 17,424 adults were captured in traps (average of 697 adults per trap site) across all trap sites in 2026. Wheat midge continued to increase in 2026, compared to 2025 (10,642 adults captured, average of 463 adults per trap site) and 2024 (8,446 adults captured, average of 313 adults per trap site). The top three trap sites, with a cumulative total of over 1,000 adults captured, are: McKenzie County with 8,421 adults; Ramsey County with 1,901 adults; and Divide County with 1,443 adults. The northwest and northeast regions of North Dakota (see red triangles on the wheat midge maps) had the highest wheat midge populations. Cass and Richland counties also had moderate populations, with 273 and 209 wheat midges per trap, respectively. Wheat production in southeastern North Dakota has increased in recent years.

2026 results indicate that remnant wheat midge populations have increased despite multiple years of severe drought. Wheat midge was found widespread throughout the state's wheat-growing areas in northern North Dakota. The increase is likely due to the wet spring in 2026, from May through mid-June. The June moisture provides favorable conditions for adult emergence,

which could increase the number of adults successfully emerging from overwintering cocoons in the soil.

The parasitic wasp (or parasitoid) of the wheat midge, ***Macroglenes penetrans***, was also observed on sticky trap bottoms at 8 trap sites (32%) in seven counties in 2026. In contrast, no parasitoids were found in 2025, and 40% were found in 2024. The prevalence of parasitic wasps mirrors the ups and downs in the population of their main food source, wheat midge larvae. Trap monitoring for this beneficial insect helps identify its distribution and role in the natural control of wheat midge in North Dakota.

Thanks to the North Dakota Wheat Commission, the USDA NIFA CPPM EIP grant, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture CAPS Program for support.

Table 1. Summary of Wheat Midge Trapping in North Dakota, 2026.

District	County	Number of Trap sites	Total # of Wheat Midge	Parasitoid Observed (Yes/No)
Central	Sheridan	1	47	Yes
East Central	Barnes	1	16	Yes
East Central	Benson	1	2	No
East Central	Cass	1	273	Yes
North Central	Benson	1	12	No
North Central	Pierce	1	18	No
North Central	Rolette	1	179	No
Northeast	Cavalier	1	173	No
Northeast	Grand Forks	1	2	Yes
Northeast	Nelson	1	728	Yes
Northeast	Pembina	1	62	No
Northeast	Ramsey	1	1901	No
Northeast	Towner	1	523	No
Northeast	Walsh	1	51	No
Northwest	Burke	1	674	No
Northwest	Divide	1	1297	No
Northwest	Divide	1	1443	No
Northwest	Mountrail	1	28	No
Northwest	Mountrail	1	280	No
Northwest	Ward 1	1	54	Yes
Northwest	Ward 2	1	55	Yes
Northwest	Williams	1	868	No
Southeast	Richland	1	209	Yes
West Central	McKenzie	1	108	No
West Central	McKenzie	1	8421	No
Total	**20 counties**	**25**	**17,424**	**8 sites (32%)**

CANOLA INSECT TRAPPING 2026

Bertha armyworm and diamondback moth are occasional insect pests of canola in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Routine monitoring with pheromone traps in canola fields can help predict when scouting for larvae is necessary and when populations are economically damaging to canola yield.

Pheromone traps for bertha armyworm and diamondback moth were monitored by IPM scouts, insect trappers and Extension agents/Specialists through the IPM Crop Survey Program at 16 trap sites in 16 counties of North Dakota and at 2 trap sites in 1 county of Minnesota.

The season-final trap counts for the **Bertha armyworm** indicated a low infestation risk (<300 cumulative moths per trap per season) at all trap sites in North Dakota and Minnesota (Table 1). The highest total trap catches occurred at Dunn and McHenry counties. However, all trap sites were below the action thresholds of 900 to 1,200 cumulative moths per trap per season for moderate risk of larval infestation (regular scouting recommended) and >1,200 moths captured per trap per season for high risk of larval infestation (frequent scouting).



Green unitrap for monitoring the Bertha armyworm.



Diamondback moth wing pheromone trap and close-up of moth on sticky trap bottom.

In 2026, final-season trap counts for diamondback moth totaled 14,457 moths, averaging 850 moths per trap site, in North Dakota and Minnesota (Table 1). The top three trap sites, listed from highest to lowest, were in Grand Forks, Pierce and Pembina counties. The peak trap catch occurred during mid to late July. The northeastern and north-central regions of North Dakota were the 'hot spot' for diamondback moth infestations in canola in 2026.

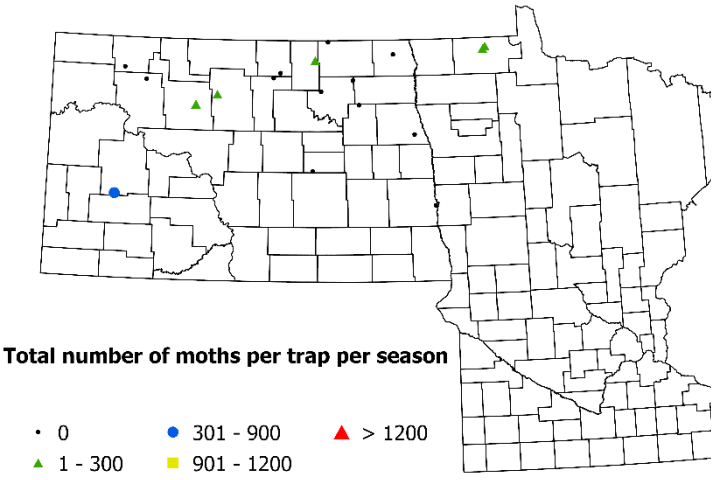
Thanks to the Northern Canola Growers Association, the USDA NIFA CPPM EIP grant, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture CAPS Program for their support.

Table 1. Summary of Canola Insect Trapping in ND and MN, 2026.

State	District	County	Number of Trap sites	Total Number	
				Bertha armyworm	Diamondback moth
ND	Central	Foster	1	0	455
ND	East Central	Cass	1	0	519
ND	North Central	McHenry	1	155	932
ND	North Central	Pierce	1	0	1605
ND	North Central	Rolette	1	0	889
ND	Northeast	Cavalier	1	0	460
ND	Northeast	Grand Forks	1	0	2527
ND	Northeast	Nelson	1	0	668
ND	Northeast	Pembina	1	0	1362
ND	Northeast	Ramsey	1	0	654
ND	Northeast	Towner	1	1	763
ND	Northeast	Walsh	1	0	305
ND	Northwest	Burke	1	0	112
ND	Northwest	Mountrial	1	0	128
ND	Northwest	Ward	1	5	1072
ND	Southwest	Dunn	1	430	278
MN	Northwest	Roseau 1	1	39	962
MN	Northwest	Roseau 2	1	22	766
Totals		**17 counties**	**18**	**652**	**14457**

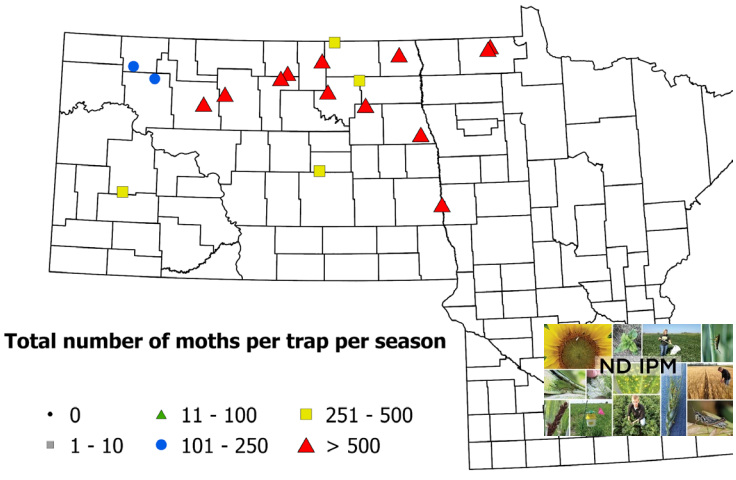
Bertha Armyworm Trapping Network

Season Final, 2026



Diamondback Moth Trapping Network

Season Final, 2026



SUNFLOWER INSECT TRAPPING 2026

Banded sunflower moth, Arthur sunflower moth and sunflower moth are occasional insect pests of sunflowers in North Dakota. Regular monitoring with pheromone traps in sunflower fields can help predict when scouting is needed for these insect pests.

Pheromone traps for sunflower insects were monitored by IPM scouts, insect trappers and Extension agents/Specialists through the IPM Crop Survey Program at nine trap sites in eight counties of North Dakota.

The season-final trap counts for the **banded sunflower moth** ranged from 222 to 2,555 moths per season across all trap sites (Table 1). The highest total trap catches occurred at Bottineau, Cass and Ward counties.

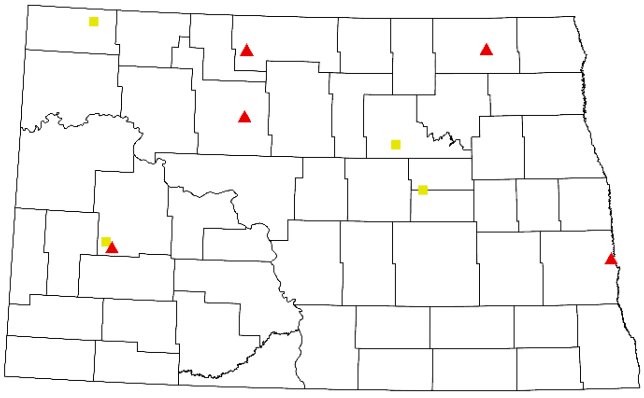
For a related species, **Arthur sunflower moth**, season-final trap counts ranged from 5 to 263 moths per season across all trap sites. The highest total trap catches occurred at Bottineau, Cass and Divide counties.

The season-final trap counts for the **sunflower moth** ranged from 0 to 13 moths per season across all trap sites (Table 1). The highest total trap catches occurred at Benson and Divide counties. All trap sites were below the economic threshold of 28 moths per trap per week.

Thanks to the National Sunflower Association, the USDA NIFA CPPM EIP grant, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture CAPS Program for their support.

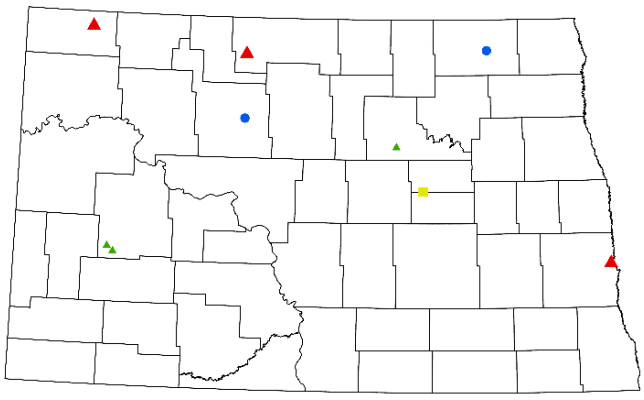


Banded Sunflower Moth Trapping Network
Cochylis hospes
Season Final, 2026



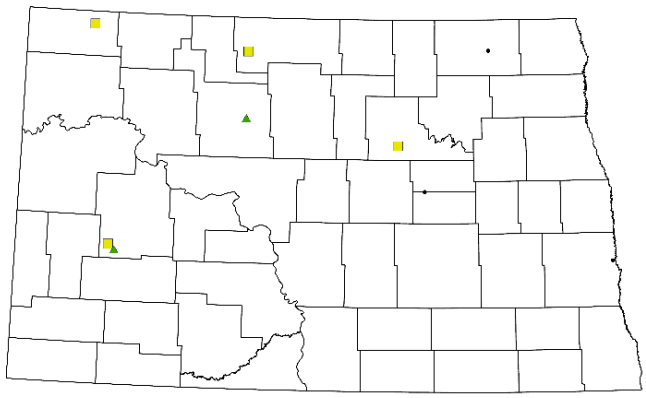
Total number of moths per trap per season
• 0 ▲ 1 - 25 ● 26 - 100 ■ 101 - 500 ▲ > 500

Arthuri Sunflower Moth Trapping Network
Cochylis Arthuri
Season Final, 2026



Total number of moths per trap per season
• 0 ▲ 1 - 25 ● 26 - 50 ■ 51 - 100 ▲ > 100

Sunflower Moth Trapping Network
Homoeosoma electellum
Season Final, 2026



Total number of moths per trap per season
• 0 ▲ 1 - 10 ■ 11 - 25 ▲ > 25

Table 1. Summary of Sunflower Insect Trapping in North Dakota, 2026.

District	County	Number of Trap sites	Total Number		
			Banded sunflower moth	Arthur sunflower moth	Sunflower moth
Central	Eddy	1	327	70	0
East Central	Cass	1	1265	263	0
North Central	Benson	1	222	9	13
North Central	Bottineau	1	2555	215	12
Northeast	Cavalier	1	507	44	0
Northwest	Divide	1	446	238	13
Northwest	Ward	1	749	40	5
Southwest	Dunn 1	1	577	15	5
Southwest	Dunn 2	1	474	5	12
Totals	**8 counties**	**9**	**7122**	**899**	**60**

Janet J. Knodel, Extension Entomologist
Patrick Beauzay, State IPM Coordinator and Research Specialist
Anitha Chirumamilla, Extension Cropping Systems Specialist, LREC

soils

THE EFFECTS OF FALL TILLAGE ON TOPSOIL LOSS

Many perceive that topsoil is only lost (soil erosion) in the spring, during the growing season or maybe in the fall. However, much wind-related soil erosion happens in the winter and is a direct result of fall tillage. All tillage loosens soil, which otherwise is held together by crop roots and fall volunteer crop growth, even if no cover crop is planted.

Topsoil blowing from fall-tilled fields either blows far away or gets deposited into the ditches or shelter belts next to the fields. Winter-blown soil results in black-colored fields and roadside ditches, whereas fall non-tilled fields and the ditches next to them remain white.



Figure 1. Topsoil blown by wind from a fall-tilled field in 2021. Photo taken on December 19, 2021, west of Grand Forks along Highway 2.

If fall tillage is not performed, be sure to leave crop stubble as high as possible for all crops and spread crop residue evenly across the field during harvest. Leaving the crop stubble high will help capture snowfall and reduce or eliminate wind-driven soil erosion.



Figure 2. Two fields between St. Thomas and Crystal along Highway 66 having contrasting appearances March 16, 2026. Field on left side was not tilled in the fall leading to a white snow-covered field and road-side ditch compared to the blackish field on the right that was fall tilled in 2025 and the ditch next to the field is 60-70% black from wind-blown soil.

By not conducting fall tillage, crop residue is more likely to remain in the field, allowing it to decompose and nutrient cycling to continue rather than blowing away. If a living cover crop is left in the field in the fall, plants can remove water from the soil and help dry it out to plant. Avoiding fall tillage and performing spring tillage as needed may not be a perfect system from a soil health perspective; however, it would be a step in the right direction to minimize topsoil blowing in the winter.

If corn stalks are short or have fallen to the soil and a mat of corn residue is created instead of having corn stalks standing as high as possible, tillage of these types of fields may be warranted. When corn residue is thick and near the soil surface, soil moisture may become trapped in the spring, delaying planting. In this unique circumstance, using a disk chisel this fall in these types of fields set to cut corn residue into smaller pieces and burying a portion of the corn residue, while still leaving some on the surface and leaving larger soil clods made by the chisel shank, should not cause as much soil and corn residue to blow away during the winter compared to more aggressive tillage making the soil mostly bare or using a vertical tillage tool that is set shallow, causing most of the corn residue to blow away during the winter.

Weed Control

Without fall tillage, herbicides will need to be applied to control winter annual and perennial weeds in the field, particularly foxtail barley. There is no type of fall tillage to control foxtail barley. Only a glyphosate application at 1.5 pounds acid equivalent per acre this fall will provide the most effective control of foxtail barley. If herbicide-resistant horseweed (marestail) is present in a field as small seedlings, apply 2,4-D ester at least 0.75 pounds acid equivalent per acre. If residual herbicides are applied in the fall to control summer annual weeds for the next growing season,

spring tillage will reduce their effectiveness, depending on the herbicide used. Fall-applied residual herbicides should not be applied until the soil temperature stays below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. If spring tillage is conducted, only a field cultivator will control winter annuals and emerged summer annual weeds; straight vertical tillage will not.

Nutrient Cost of Losing Topsoil

NDSU research in 2025 determined that topsoil loss in the winter of 2024-25 resulted in nutrient losses costing $6,682.95 per acre to replace only five of the ten nutrients lost, based on 2025 prices and applying commercial fertilizer to a 0- to 6-inch-deep soil sample per acre. At the same time, nutrient loss through every inch of topsoil per acre will cost $1,113.81 to replace under the same circumstances.



Figure 3. The left side of the photo is a conventional tillage field next to a five-year no-tillage field near Langdon, ND, on October 5, 2026. Notice the loose topsoil in the conventional tillage field compared to the topsoil of the no-tillage field, which is held together by crop residue and volunteer hard red spring wheat.

Based on the information presented, farmers are better off not tilling the soil after harvest and letting volunteer crop plants thrive. Crop stubble will hold the topsoil together and capture more snow, improving soil moisture availability for 2027 crops. Volunteer crop growth will add organic material to the soils!

Naeem Kalwar
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around the state

NORTH CENTRAL ND

Harvest in the North Central Region has been going steady for the last two weeks. Soybean harvest has been wrapping up for most producers in the region. Yields reported have ranged from 15 to 50 bushels per acre.

Grain corn harvest has started, and so far, grain moisture has been an issue that must be addressed. Some farmers are dealing with moisture in the 20s. Driers have been very busy bringing corn down to a better storage moisture. Yields have been average thus far. Some fields have issues with cobs being exposed to moisture, resulting in moldy cobs.

The biggest challenge for harvest remains field moisture. Some areas in Bottineau and Rolette Counties have been persistent challenges for getting fields harvested. Some farmers have been using excavators to free their machinery that is stuck in the fields. There has been some tillage fieldwork in the area. Some Anhydrous has been applied as well, but with recent warm temperatures, producers should be aware of potential nitrogen losses. Fall spraying has been busy in areas with heavy volunteer crops. Now, with temps lowering and local forecasts leaning on the cooler side, that should slow down.

Brenden Klebe
Bottineau County Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent

NORTHEAST ND

Harvest season is coming to an end across the region. Soybean harvest is nearing completion in some areas, with progress ranging from 80% to 98%, while corn harvest is underway, ranging from 25% to 60% complete. Sunflower harvest is also progressing well, with approximately 85% to nearly complete. Reported corn yields varied, with some areas seeing yields in the 90–100-bushel range and others reaching up to 130 bushels per acre. Despite dry conditions during the growing season, soil moisture levels have been favorable going into fall. Farmers are busy with fall activities like applying anhydrous ammonia and doing fall tillage.



Corn field in Benson County (Photo: Anitha Chirumamilla, LREC)

Anitha Chirumamilla
Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
Langdon Research Extension Center

NORTHWEST ND

In the past 14 days (October 12th to October 26th), rainfall across Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams Counties ranged from 0 to 0.08 inches! This was great for harvest, but did not improve drought status in McKenzie County.

The drought status for northwest ND has improved since the last newsletter. D3 (extreme drought) status no longer exists in any of these northwest ND counties as of October 22nd! However, most of McKenzie County is in D2 (severe drought) status. About 15% of McKenzie County, a small southern part of Williams County, and a small southwestern part of Mountrail County are in D1 (moderate drought) status. About the southern 2/3rds of Mountrail County and about the southern 1/3rds of Williams County are in D0 (abnormally dry) status as of October 22nd. About the northern 2/3rds of Williams County, about the northern 1/3rd of Mountrail County, and all of Burke and Divide Counties currently have no drought conditions.

In the past 14 days, the departure from the normal maximum air temperature for the region ranged from + 3 degrees Fahrenheit at one NDAWN station in Williams County near the Missouri River to + 7 degrees Fahrenheit in much of Divide County and three locations in McKenzie County, with the average about + 5 degrees Fahrenheit for the entire northwest ND region. In the past 14 days, the departure from normal of the minimum air temperature for the region ranged from -3 degrees Fahrenheit at two locations in Burke County and one location in Williams or McKenzie Counties to +5 degrees Fahrenheit at two Burke County locations and one location near Williams County along the Missouri River. These temperatures are way above normal for this time of the year! These above-normal temperatures and dry weather are allowing the harvest to be completed before bad weather arrives.

Most soybeans have been harvested now in the region. Yields in irrigated McKenzie County soybean fields are averaging around 65 bushels per acre! I have not heard of any dryland soybean yields in the northern part of the region.

At least 50% of grain corn worth harvesting in McKenzie County is harvested now, with irrigated corn yields averaging around 220 bushels per acre! The farther north you go in the region, the less corn acreage has been harvested yet. I've not heard of any dryland corn yields in the northern counties of the region, but corn yields should be greater than 125 bushels per acre in most Burke and Divide corn fields!

Sunflowers are still looking good across most of the region, with harvest slowly beginning in the southern part and likely none or very little in the northern part.

Winter wheat was planted in more McKenzie County fields than normal this fall. The winter wheat crop has stooled well and is looking fairly decent at the moment; however, more moisture is needed to maintain the current condition.

Jeff Stachler
Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
Carrington Research Extension Center

SOUTH-CENTRAL/SOUTHEAST ND

Rainfall for all NDAWN stations in SC and SE ND counties over the past two weeks (October 13th to October 27th) ranged from 0.01 to 0.03 inch in Sheridan County to 0.63 to 0.71 inch in about the southern 2/3rds of Richland County and into the southern half of Sargent County! The majority of the remaining NDAWN stations in the region received rainfall ranging from 0.09 to 0.26 inch. The drier conditions have allowed much of the crops to be harvested throughout the region! Figure 1 shows the past 14 days of rainfall for the region. The first snowfall of the season occurred on the morning of October 27th in parts of the region, ranging from a dusting to up to 2 inches in Logan County!

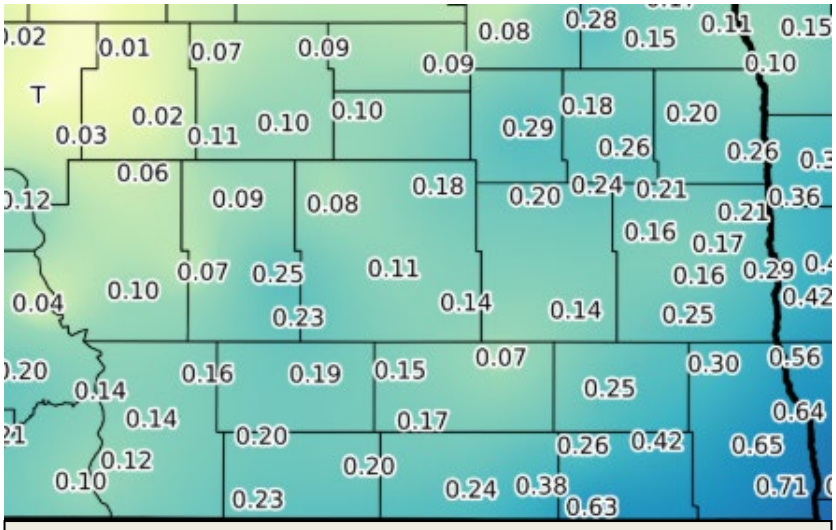


Figure 1: Total precipitation over the last two weeks for the SC and SE regions of North Dakota.

As of October 22nd, the major issue across most of the region remains the drought. However, the drought has decreased in intensity over the last three weeks across parts of the region due to continued rainfall. As of October 22nd, D3 (extreme drought) intensity existed in most of Richland and Ransom Counties, including the Northeast part of Sargent County, a very small part of east-central LaMoure County, and about the southern 10% of Cass County. D2 (severe drought) intensity is present in the remainder of Cass, Ransom, Richland and Sargent Counties as well as encompassing the eastern 2/3rds of Barnes County, southern half of Steele and Traill Counties, about the eastern 1/3 of LaMoure County, about 10% of the northeast part of Dickey County, and about 5% of Griggs County in the eastern part of the region and over 50% of Burleigh and Sheridan Counties and about 10% of the northwest part of Emmons County in the western part of the region. The rest of Burleigh County, nearly 90% of Kidder County, most of the rest of Sheridan and Emmons Counties and the southwest part of Wells County and northwest part of Logan County in the west and nearly all of Griggs County, much of LaMoure County, the remainder of Steele and Traill Counties, about the eastern 25% of Stutsman County, about 25% of Dickey County, and a small southeast part of Foster County are at D1 (moderate drought) intensity. Nearly the rest of the region, including nearly all of Eddy, Foster, Logan, and McIntosh Counties and parts of Wells, Stutsman, LaMoure, and Dickey Counties, were at D0 (abnormally dry) drought intensity. The very southwest corner of Dickey and a small northern sliver of Eddy and Wells Counties have no drought as of October 22nd. Based upon slough water levels in Griggs County along Highway 200 and the soil condition in our garden, at least the central part of Griggs County could be moved down to D1 drought intensity; however, the lack of water in most Foster County sloughs along Highway 200 would support a D1 to D2 drought intensity, which could encompass

the southern part of Eddy County. Figure 2 shows the Drought Monitor map for the SC and SE region of ND as of October 22nd.

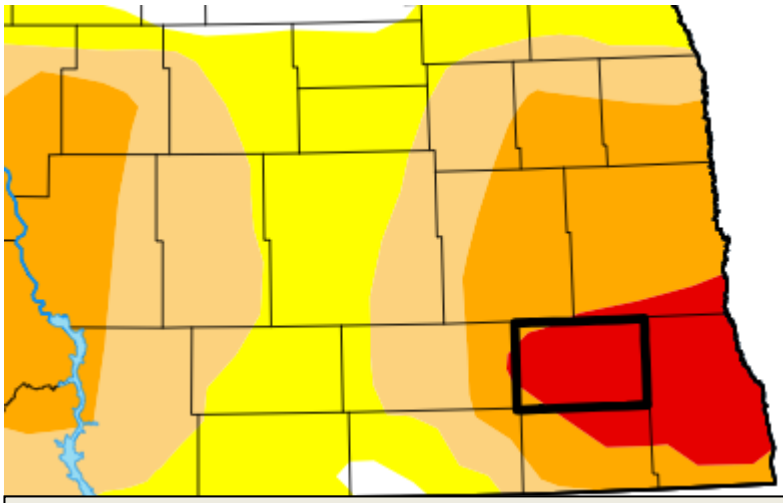


Figure 2: The October 22nd Drought Monitor Map for the SC and SE region of North Dakota.

Farmers should continue monitoring corn fields and harvesting them as soon as possible in the region due to the potential for increased corn lodging and ear drop, as seen in Figures 3 and 4 on October 12th in Foster County. Thankfully, the amount of lodged corn and ear drop in the region is much less than anticipated, largely due to the lack of strong winds over the past three weeks. Crown rot and stalk rots are still present in nearly all corn fields in the region to some degree. Still, it is amazing that a greater percentage of plants across all fields were unaffected than I thought would happen, given how quickly crown and stalk rots moved into fields during September. Crown rot and stalk rots are present at an all-time high within fields than ever before across the region. Work remains to understand how to reduce these pathogens and whether these diseases will worsen over time.



Figure 3: Many lodged corn plants in a Foster County Corn field, October 12, 2026.



Figure 4: Lodged corn plants and corn ear drop in a Foster County Corn field, October 12, 2026.

The departure from the normal daily maximum air temperature over the past two weeks for the region ranges from +3 degrees Fahrenheit in Sheridan County to +8 degrees Fahrenheit in 6 counties, with most of the region running at least +6 degrees Fahrenheit, as seen in Figure 5. The departure from the normal daily low air temperature for the region ranged from 0 degrees Fahrenheit at one NDAWN station in Burleigh and Traill Counties to + 7 degrees Fahrenheit at 4 NDAWN stations in Barnes, Kidder, Ransom, and McIntosh Counties, with most of the region being at least + 3 degrees Fahrenheit. The entire region has finally seen a frost or killing freeze as of October 25th, which is really late.

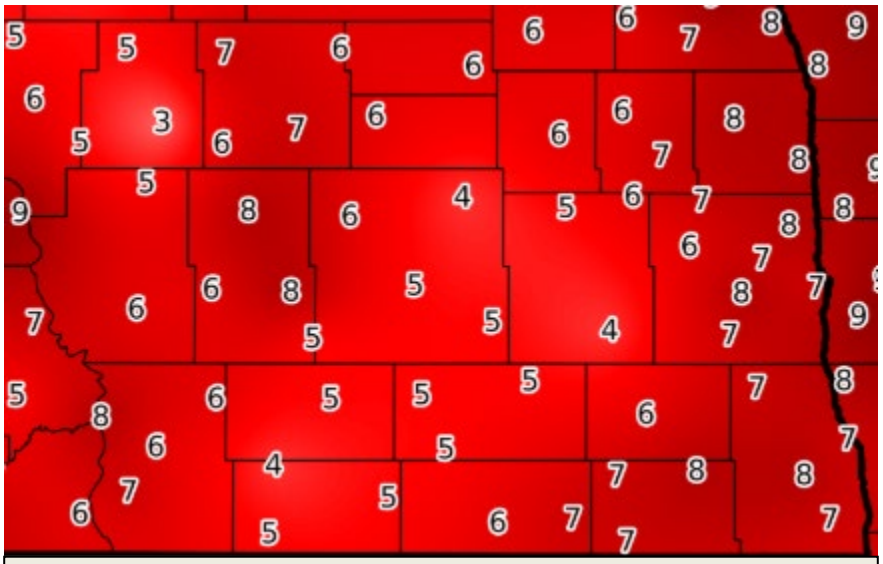


Figure 5: Departure from the normal daily maximum air temperatures for the past two weeks. Really warm.

Soil temperatures across the region are now below 50 degrees Fahrenheit and should stay below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, so fall-applied residual herbicides can now be applied to help control winter annual weed emergence now and early summer annual weed emergence next spring. It's also a good time to apply glyphosate plus 2,4-D ester to control perennial weeds such as Canada thistle and foxtail barley, as well as winter annual weeds. The 2,4-D ester is only needed if horseweed (marestail) is present.

Soybean harvest is almost complete in the region and is done entirely farther south. Soybean yields in the region range from 5 to 65 bushels/A, depending on rainfall, soil type, water-holding capacity, and variety. The average across the region should be in the low 30s bushels/A, but some farms in the region are averaging in the high 30s bushels/A.

Sunflower harvest ranges from being completed in the eastern part of the region to almost done in the western half of the region. I have not heard of many yield reports other than 3,300 pounds/A in Richland County and 2,300 pounds/A in Griggs County, with test weight and oil content being very good.

Corn harvest in the region ranges from 20 to 80% complete, with Eddy County reporting the fewest fields harvested and LaMoure County reporting the most. Overall, the region is at 60% complete. In some areas, corn harvest is delayed due to higher corn moisture and/or full grain elevators. Corn yields, as a field average in the region, range from 30 bushels/A in the east central part of the region to 220 bushels/A in Richland County and other southern counties. The regional average might be around 140 bushels/A. Figure 6 shows corn being stored in multiple bags in fields, at least in Foster County, and corn being piled on the ground in other areas across the region. Corn moisture is mostly below 17% across most of the region at this time.



Figure 6: Multiple bags of shelled corn being stored in a Foster County field, October 27, 2026.

Harvest is complete for some farmers this year; others are nearly done, and some still have a fair number of acres to harvest. Hopefully the weather stays good enough to complete harvest by mid-November across the region.

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