



By Russ Pankonin

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Typically by mid-July, the combine's already parked and the wheat harvest is in the bin.

But then when is anything that has to do with farming typical?

This year's wheat harvest has been delayed much later than normal due to rain.

After some rain this weekend, the weather has cooperated to allow farmers to start harvesting this year's crop.

Both grain elevators in Imperial reported brisk activity Monday and Tuesday.

Ryan Schultz, grain manager at Frenchman Valley Coop, said Tuesday proved to be their biggest day yet.

Schultz estimated harvest progress for the Imperial area at 40 percent complete as of Wednesday morning.

He said harvest progress on the dryland appears to be ahead of the irrigated wheat for now.

He estimated progress at 30 percent in the Wauneta and 20 percent in the Grant area.

Quality has not been compromised due to the late harvest, with test weights running about average.

Elevator operators said they are hearing of yields ranging from 40-70 bushels per acre on dryland wheat.