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MANILA BULLETIN:

'May madudukot tayo': Government has ample funds for disaster rehab, Libanan assures Pinoys

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jul 28, 2024 02:25 PM

AT A GLANCE

- The national government has enough money under the current 2024 budget national budget for emergency relief aid and rehabilitation services to communities affected by the seasonal monsoon and Typhoon "Carina", House Minority Leader 4Ps Party-list Rep. Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan has assured Filipinos.



4Ps Party-list Rep. Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan (Facebook)

The national government has enough money under the current 2024 budget national budget for emergency relief aid and rehabilitation services to communities affected by the seasonal monsoon and Typhoon "Carina".

Thus, said House Minority Leader 4Ps Party-list Rep. Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan as parts of Metro Manila and Luzon continue to reel from the effects of the extensive flooding caused by the heavy downpour.

"In the 2024 General Appropriations Law, Congress earmarked the sum of P20.5 billion for the Calamity Fund to provide relief augmentation, such as cash aid and shelter assistance," Libanan said in a statement Sunday, July 28.

"The Calamity Fund also covers the repair and restoration of damaged vital public structures such as school buildings, hospitals, roads, bridges and seaports, among others," Libanan said.

"In fact, we expect rebuilding activities to help create construction-related jobs that will benefit low-income households," he added.

Libanan also said the various government departments have Quick Response Fund (QRF) allocations lodged in their respective budgets for disaster recovery.

He named the departments with QRF allocations as follows: Department of Education, (P3 billion); Department of Social Welfare and Development, (P1.75 billion); Department of Public Works and Highways (P1 billion); Department of Agriculture (P1 billion); Department of Health (P500 million); Department of National Defense (P500 million); Department of Transportation-Philippine Coast Guard (P75 million); and Department of the Interior and Local Government (P50 million each for the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Fire Protection).

Libanan said the Calamity Fund "will replenish the QRF allocations of the various departments, as needed".

The last two typhoons to hit the Philippines--Carina and "Butchoy"--adversely affected more than 3.3 million people.

The severe weather events caused extensive damage to public infrastructure, farm harvests and private property, mainly on account of widespread flash flooding, coastal storm surges and landslides.

A total of 104 cities and municipalities, including the whole of Metro Manila, are now under a state of calamity.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/28/may-madudukot-tayo-government-has-ample-funds-for-disaster-rehab-libanan-assures-pinoys>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Typhoon-enhanced ‘habagat’ rains affect 3.6M people; displaced Filipinos down to 1.07M

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Jul 28, 2024 12:17 PM



(File photo courtesy of House Speaker Martin Romualdez)

The number of people affected by heavy rains due to southwest monsoon (habagat) that were enhanced by Typhoon “Carina” and Tropical Depression “Butchoy” has further increased to 3,628,500 comprised of 971,667 families, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said on Sunday, July 28.

As Carina and Butchoy already left the country’s area of responsibility, flood has subsided in many areas which prompted evacuees to return to their houses and check on their valuables. The number of displaced individuals decreased from 1.1 million to 1.07 million, with over 168,000 individuals still staying in 1,025 evacuation centers.

The death toll sharply increased from 16 to 28.

Twelve fatalities were reported in the National Capital Region (NCR), five in Calabarzon (Region 4A), four in Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9), two apiece in Cordillera Administrative

Region (CAR) and Central Luzon (Region 3), and one each in Ilocos (Region 1), Northern Mindanao (Region 10), and Davao (Region 11).

Four persons remained missing: two in Ilocos Region, and one each in Calabarzon and Northern Mindanao. Four individuals were also injured in CAR and Northern Mindanao.

Rains continued to pour down in some parts of the nation due to the effects of habagat. There were 98 areas that remained flooded and these were located in NCR, CAR, Regions 1, 2, 3, 4A, 9, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Twenty-six cities and municipalities (from 22) still have no power supply, making it hard for residents to return to their normal daily lives. These were located in NCR, Regions 1, 4A, 4B, and 9.

The lack of adequate water supply remains an issue as four areas in Regions 4A and 9 experience water interruption.

The number of damaged houses also increased to 720: 556 houses were partially damaged while 164 others were totally destroyed.

The damage to agriculture was estimated at more than P218 based on the initial tally of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and National Irrigation Authority (NIA) while initial infrastructure loss was pegged at P171 million.

The number of areas placed under a state of calamity slightly increased to 105 (from 104). This includes 57 areas in Region 3; 24 in Region 4A; 17 in NCR; three in Region 4B; two in Region 12; and one each in Regions 1 and 11.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/28/typhoon-enhanced-habagat-rains-affect-3-6-m-people-displaced-filipinos-down-to-1-07-m>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Pampanga declares P266.5 million damage due to Carina

Ric Sapnu - The Philippine Star

July 28, 2024 | 12:00am



Residents try to salvage reusable belongings as they clear their homes of rubbish and mud at Barangay Tatalon in Quezon City on Thursday, a day after Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon batter Metro Manila.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The damage to agriculture due to Typhoon Carina and monsoon-induced rains in Pampanga province is pegged at P266.5 million, the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) reported yesterday.

In its report, the PAO said damage to rice crop stands at P121.6 million while that of the fisheries sector is at P144.5 million, making it the most damaged sectors in the province.

The most affected towns are Bacolor, Magalang, Arayat, Candaba, San Simon, Lubao, Sasmuan, Minalin, Macabebe and Masantol, it added.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office said 765 families are still in 62 evacuation centers as its regional office reported having distributed P18 million worth of aid to flood victims.

Meanwhile, the local government of Bauang in La Union declared the town under a state of calamity on Friday, citing the adverse effects of typhoon Carina and the monsoon.

Mayor Clarence Martin de Guzman III signed the council-approved resolution to allow them to use the calamity funds in assisting affected residents.

The municipal disaster risk reduction and management council confirmed at least one casualty at the height of the typhoon. — **Jun Elias, Ramon Efren Lazaro**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/28/2373468/pampanga-declares-p2665-million-damage-due-carina>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Carina leaves P19.3-M damage to agriculture in Bicol

By: [Rey Anthony Ostri](#) - Correspondent / [@RAOstriaINQ](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 11:32 PM July 27, 2024



Inquirer file photo

GUINOBATAN, ALBAY, Philippines — Heavy rains brought by Typhoon Carina (international name: Gaemi) and the southwest monsoon or “habagat” left an initial P19.3 million damage to agriculture in the Bicol Region.

According to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol, this includes the production loss or cost of damage reported in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte.

Meanwhile, 21 houses were destroyed and 80 houses were damaged, according to OCD’s report.

Most of the houses were in Magallanes town in Sorsogon, where 74 were destroyed by storm surges.

In Albay, 12 houses were damaged by storm surges in Pio Duran town.

Two houses were damaged in Juban town in Sorsogon, while six were destroyed in Sipocot town in Camarines Sur.

Support Typhoon Carina Victims

The Inquirer is extending its relief and fund drive to help families affected by Typhoon Carina. Donate to Inquirer Foundation Corp. at BDO Current Account No: 007960018860. For inquiries, email foundation@inquirer.com.ph.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1966521/carina-leaves-p19-3-m-damage-to-agriculture-in-bicol>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Typhoon, monsoon leave P19.3 M agri damage in Bicol

By: [Rey Anthony Ostri](#) - Correspondent / [@RAOstriaINQ](#)

Inquirer Southern Luzon / 09:15 PM July 27, 2024



GUINOBATAN, ALBAY – Damage to the agriculture sector caused by [Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon](#) in the Bicol region was pegged as P19.3 million as of Saturday.

According to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol, the damage covers production loss in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte.

Meanwhile, 21 houses were destroyed while 80 others were damaged in the region.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1966520/typhoon-monsoon-leave-p19-3-m-agri-damage-in-bicol>

BUSINESS WORLD:

GOCC subsidies fall 61% in June, up 4.3% vs

May

July 28, 2024 | 7:53 pm



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HANDOUT

BUDGETARY SUPPORT to government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) in June dropped 61% year on year, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said.

The BTr reported that subsidies to GOCCs declined to P10.16 billion in June, while increasing 4.3% from May.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) received the largest subsidy with P7.52 billion, or 74% of all subsidies handed out in June.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute received P345 million while National Power Corp. got P302 million.

GOCCs that received subsidies of at least P100 million are the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority with P272 million, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. P260 million, Philippine Children's Medical Center P180 million, Philippine Heart Center P139 million, National Kidney and Transplant Institute P133 million, Philippine Coconut Authority P122 million, Cultural Center of the Philippines at P112 million, Philippine National Railways P107 million, and the Small Business Corp. P100 million.

Those who received above P50 million in June were the Development Academy of the Philippines (P82 million), Light Rail Transit Authority (P72 million), Lung Center of the Philippines (P70 million), National Dairy Authority (P67 million), and the Tourism Promotions Board (P63 million).

On the other hand, no subsidies were given to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Social Housing Finance Corp., Local Water Utilities Administration, National Electrification Administration, National Food Authority, National Housing Authority (NHA), Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan, Philippine Postal Corp., the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority.

In the first six months of the year, GOCC subsidies rose by 5.51% to P67.21 billion from P63.7 billion in the same period last year.

NIA was the top recipient in the January-to-June period with P36.53 billion in subsidies. This was followed by PSALM (P8 billion) and the NHA (P3.75 billion).

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort noted that the smaller subsidies could be attributed to government efforts to shrink the budget gap and avoid additional borrowing.

“This could partly reflect the narrower budget deficit during the month, amid some fiscal reform measures such as more disciplined government spending, and maximizing the contribution of GOCCs in terms of higher dividends remitted to the National Government (NG),” he said in a Facebook Messenger chat.

Leonardo A. Lanzona, an economics professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, said GOCC subsidies were limited by the Finance department’s no new taxes rule.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto has stood firm in shelving any tax proposals, citing the need to improve revenue collection efficiency first.

In June, the NG’s budget deficit narrowed to P209.1 billion from P225.4 billion in the same month last year.

The government subsidizes GOCCs to help fund operational expenses covered by revenues. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/28/610695/gocc-subsidies-fall-61-in-june-up-4-3-vs-may/>

REIMATE:

Agarang aksyon sa Bataan oil spill ipinanawagan ng grupo ng mangingisda

July 28, 2024 16:27



(c) Remate News Central File Photo

NABABAHALA ang samahan ng mga grupo ng mangingisda na Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) sa Cavite dahil sa ulat ng oil spill na tumagas sa Manila Bay, kabilang ang lalawigan ng Cavite at Bulacan.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ng PAMALAKAYA-Cavite na habang ang kanilang mga lokal na miyembro ay hindi pa nakakakita ng anumang oil slick sa kanilang munisipal na tubig, labis silang nababahala na ang oil spill ay maaaring makaapekto sa kanilang mga aktibidad sa pangingisda.

“Bagama’t hindi pa namin lubusang nararamdamang tumagas na langis sa aming pangisdaan, lubha kaming nababahala sa pagkalat nito kung hindi kaagad maagapan ng mga pagbibigay ng oil spill.

Ayon sa grupo ng Pamalakaya, hindi pa sila nakakabangon sa matinding pananalasa ng bagyong Carina at ng kasalukuyang Habagat. Mahigit dalawang buwan nang hindi tuloy-tuloy ang pangingisda dahil sa malalaking alon at malakas na hangin. Hindi na namin kakayanin ang nagbabadyang panibagong trahedyang dulot ng oil spill.

“Nananawagan kami sa mga pagkakataon na magkaroon ng agaran at aksyon para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng langis,” sabi ni Richard Catenza, PAMALAKAYA-Cavite President.

Sinabi ng grupo ng mga mangingisda na mananagot ang gobyerno kung hindi nito mapigil ang oil spill.

“Madami na tayong nagdaang karanasan sa oil spill. Dapat ay natutukoy na ang pamahalaan kung paano maaapektuhan ang paglawak ng pinsala nito sa dagat at kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda. Bagama’t aksidente ang nangyari, magiging kriminal na kapabayaan sa panig ng gobyerno kung hindi mapipigilan ang pagkalat ng langis,” ayon pa kay Ronnel Arambulo, PAMALAKAYA Vice Chairperson sa pahayag.

Sinabi ng PAMALAKAYA na mahigpit nilang binabantayan ang ilang coastal towns sa Cavite na posibleng maapektuhan ng oil spill. Kabilang dito ang municipal waters ng Tanza at Rosario, kung saan mahigit 10,000 mangingisda ang maaapektuhan.

Magugunitang nitong Hulyo 25, isang oil tanker na may dalang hindi bababa sa 1.4 milyong litro ng gasolina ang tumaob at lumubog sa bayan ng Limay sa lalawigan ng Bataan. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/agarang-aksyon-sa-bataan-oil-spill-ipinanawagan-ng-grupo-ng-mangingisda/>

REIMATE:

Fish ban target ng BFAR sa Bataan oil spill

July 28, 2024 11:05



MANILA, Philippines – Target ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) na magdeklara ng fishing ban sa mga lugar na apektado ng oil spill mula sa lumubog na MT Terra Nova sa labas ng Bataan.

Sinabi ng tagapagsalita ng BFAR na si Nazario Briguera na maaaring maapektuhan ang kabuhayan ng libu-libong mangisingda sakaling pansamantalang ipagbawal ang pangingisda dahil sa oil spill.

Kukuha ng fish sample ang BFAR para masuri ang mga ito at para malaman kung magdedeklara nga ng fish ban.

“Doon sa pangingisda, we are yet to coordinate with the local government units sa pagdedeklara ng fishing ban,” aniya sa isang radio interview.

“Sa ngayon kasi, we still have to gather, consolidate all the relevant information. Kami, magsasagawa kami ng sampling sa mga isda. Ang DENR, nagsa-sampling na rin ng tubig,” aniya pa.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, posibleng maaapektuhan ng oil spill ang Bulacan, Cavite, at Pampanga.

Nitong Sabado, inilarawan ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang oil spill na 12 hanggang 14 kilometro ang haba ngunit “manageable” pa rin.

Sinabi ni Briguera na hinihikayat ng BFAR ang mga mangingisda na bantayan ang kanilang paligid upang makita kung kumakalat na ang oil spill sa kanilang lugar.

Sa kabilang nito, sinabi ni Briguera na nakahanda ang pamahalaan na tumulong sa mga mangingisda na maaapektuhan ng posibleng pagbabawal sa pangingisda.

Tumaob ang MT Terra Nova at nagdulot ng oil spill sa Bataan nitong Huwebes.

Ang MT Terra Nova, na patungo sa Iloilo, ay may dalang 1.4 milyong litro ng pang-industriya na gasolina nang tumaob ito sa layong 3.6 nautical miles sa silangan ng Lamao Point sa bayan ng Limay sa Bataan.

Ayon sa PCG, 16 sa 17 tripulante ang nailigtas, habang isang crewman ang natagpuang patay. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/fish-ban-target-ng-bfar-sa-bataan-oil-spill/>

REIMATE:

Agri rehab aid sa Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan siniguro ni PBBM

July 28, 2024 10:00



INATASAN ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. sa Department of Agriculture (DA) na kagyat na magbigay ng tulong sa pag-rehabilitate ng agriculture sector ng Bulacan, Pampanga, at Bataan matapos ang naging pananalasa ng Super Typhoon Carina-pinatinding southwest monsoon na humagupit sa Luzon.

Sa isang briefing sa Malolos, pinulong ng Pangulo ang mga local chief executives ng tatlong lalawigan para i-assess ang situwasyon at i-check ang mga pangangailangan habang ang relief operations ay nagpapatuloy sa rehiyon.

“In terms of the relief and rescue, I think we are alright. Now, we are talking about rehabilitation, the biggest – I think the three governors agree na ‘yong agri muna ang aayusin natin. ‘Yong infra, we will look at that also,” ayon sa Pangulo.

Iniulat ng Bulacan na P103 million ang nawala sa agri-fisheries sector, habang ang Pampanga naman ay P378 million at ang Bataan naman ay P92.92 million.

Ang pinagsamang epekto ng Carina at “habagat” na nagresulta ng pagbaha sa 220 barangay sa Pampanga, nakaaapekto ng mahigit sa 127,000 pamilya.

Sinabi ni Bulacan, Governor Daniel Fernando na 100% o 24 lungsod at munisipalidad, ng lalawigan ang apektado ng pagbaha, ang Meycauayan at Malolos ang tinamaan ng malakas na hambalos ni Carina at Habagat.

Sinasabing 11 mula sa 12 munisipalidad at lungsod sa Bataan ay tinamaan din ng pagbaha, naapektuhan ang 208,371 pamilya.

“Na-assess na natin ‘yong majority ng nasira na kailangan bigyan kaagad ng tulong. We’ll have to get determination from the DA as to what areas will go firstna puwede nang padalhan ng tulong,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

Ang tulong na ito ay maaaring dumating sa “form of equipment or provision of seedlings, fingerlings, at brood sow.”

“We’ll move on now to the recovery at rehabilitation ng agriculture sector, infrastructureganoon din pero hindi natin magagawa na immediate ‘yan,” ayon sa Punong Ehekutibo.

Binigyang diin pa rin ni Pangulong Marcos ang pangangailangan na magtayo ng mas maraming water-impounding systems sa Central Luzon para pagaanin ang pagbaha sa panahon ng taga-ulang.

Tinukoy nito ang iba’t ibang aerial inspections ng mga apektadong lalawigan, ibinahagi ng Pangulo ang kanyang naobserbahan na ang wala kahit saan mapuntahan ang tubig-baha.

“Mataas ‘yong tubig ng dagat. Mataas ‘yong tubig ng ilog. May baha pa doon sa mga farmlands,” aniya pa rin.

“Ang laki ng bumaba na tubig, sabay sabay, bigla. Hindi na nakayanan ng ating mga slope protection, ng ating flood control, ng ating mga dike, so we have to find another way to do it. Kaya palagay ko ‘yong impounding talaga,” ang sinabi ng Pangulo.

Sa pag-uulat ng lawak ng pinsala dulot ng bagyo at “habagat,” sinabi naman ni Fernando na ang Bulacan ay handang makipagtulungan sa national government para sa isang permanent solution sa pagbaha sa rehiyon.

Nauna nang ipinagbigay-alam naman ni Fernando kay Pangulong Marcos ang tungkol sa programa ng provincial government para mapagaan ang pagbaha, kabilang ang River Dredging and Restoration Program nito.

Cabinet members were present in the briefing to assure that relief is ready and available to all affected families.

Sinabi naman ni Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian na mahigit sa 250,000 relief packs ang ide-deliver o maghihintay ng pick-up para sa typhoon victims sa Bulacan, Pampanga, at Bataan.

Sinabi pa rin niya na ang DSWD, ay nagpo-proseso na ng 247,000 karagdagang requests sa mga nasabing lalawigan.

Tiniyak naman ni Gatchalian na makikipag-ugnayan ang DSWD sa lahat ng apektadong LGUs para sa probisyon ng cash assistance sa mga apektadong pamilya.

“Once we get all of those (requests), we’ll evaluate them and figure out how to go, how to move forward, whether we use AICS (Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation), or the emergency cash transfer (ECT) that we use,” ayon sa Kalihim.

Sa kabilang dako, sinabi naman ni Labor Secretary Bienvenido Lagunesma, na ang kanyang departamento ay naglaan ng P176 million para sa TUPAD or Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced workers program sa Central Luzon.

Sa naturang halaga, P62 million ang inilaan para sa Bulacan, Bataan, at Pampanga.

Ang TUPAD ay isang community-based package of assistance para tulungan ang emergency employment para sa mga displaced workers.

Ilan sa mga benepisaryo ng TUPAD ay idineploy para tulungan ang DSWD na mag-repack ng food items at tulungan ang Department of Public Works and Highways sa clearing operations nito.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Teodoro Herbosa na tutulong ang ahensiya na tiyakin ang mental at physical health ng mga bakwit na tinamaan ng kalamidad.

Winika nito na ang mga health workers ay idineploy sa lahat ng mga evacuation centers sa iba't ibang rehiyon.

“The DOH would also deploy “psychological first aid” teams for fisherfolk and farmers whose sources of income were destroyed by the typhoon,” ani Herbosa. ***Kris Jose***

<https://remate.ph/agri-rehab-aid-sa-bulacan-pampanga-bataan-siniguro-ni-pbbm/>

REMARTE:

P400M winasak sa sektor ng agrikultura ng bagyong Carina, habagat

July 28, 2024 09:35



UMABOT na sa halos P400 million ang pinsala at pagkalugi sa agriculture sector dahil sa pananalasa ng Super Typhoon Carina at Southwest Monsoon o Habagat, ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA).

Sa situation bulletin nito “as 3 p.m. , Hulyo 26” iniuulat ng DA na ang kabuuang halaga ng production loss resulta ng malakas na pagulan at pagbaha gawa ng bagyong Carina at Habagat ay nagkakahalaga ng P399.91 million.

Ito ay katumbas ng kabuuang volume ng production loss na 5,599 metric tons (MT) at 23,256 ektarya ng agricultural area na sinira sa Ilocos, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccoksargen at Caraga regions.

Naapektuhan din ng weather disturbances ang 21,785 magsasaka.

Ang mga nasirang agricultural commodities ay kinabibilangan naman ng bigas (P356.28 million, 4,578 MT), mais (P19.07 million, 545 MT), high value crops (P24.15 million, 477 MT), at livestock (P411,950, 2,508 ulo ng manok baboy, baka, kambing, tupa, itik, buffalo). **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/p400m-winasak-sa-sektor-ng-agrikultura-ng-bagyong-carina-habagat/>

BUSINESS MIRROR

Wheat supplies set to expand with record North Dakota yields

Bloomberg News
July 28, 2024

Record-high wheat yields in North Dakota are set to further expand American grain supplies and should help to quell inflation for foods like bagels, where prices had recently started rising again.

Dozens of wheat traders, millers and bakers fanned out across the state in an annual crop tour this week. They found lush wheat fields—thick with tall, green plants. Farmers enjoyed a speedy spring sowing season and ample rainfall in May and June, before a recent turn to hot and dry weather.

The primary variety grown in the state of hard red spring wheat should yield 54.5 bushels per acre, according to the tour's final data Thursday. That's up 15 percent from last year and just below the US Department of Agriculture's projection earlier this month of 56 bushels per acre—the highest ever. The tour estimate would also mean the state's highest yield ever.

"This is as good as we've had for the number," said Dave Green, executive vice president of the Wheat Quality Council, which hosts the crop tour.

American farmers have been reaping bumper grain crops, helping to buffer global supplies. Top exporter Russia will see a smaller harvest than last year, while brutal heat in the European Union will hit yields for wheat and corn. North Dakota vies with Kansas as the top US grower.

Kansas' just-harvested crop of wheat planted in the winter that also was bigger than last year. North Dakota should gather even more wheat, both the high-gluten spring wheat variety used to make stretchy dough for foods like bagels and pizza, as well as durum wheat prized by pasta makers.

Plentiful US supplies have benchmark Chicago futures trading near the lowest levels since 2020. Bigger stockpiles and cheaper grain are welcomed by food manufacturers who had been struggling with years of reduced US plantings and the

record-high prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Just a year ago, wheat was coming to the US from Poland to make up for a shortfall.

Benchmark Chicago wheat futures for September delivery traded near \$5.30 per bushel as of 8:39 a.m. in Chicago, down more than 25 percent from a year ago.

Still, prices for foods made from the staple grain are still relatively expensive. Earlier in July, the US Labor Department said its food index climbed amid gains in the baked-goods category even as broader inflation pressures were easing.

Wheat growers are also facing lower farm-gate prices even as costs for seeds, chemicals and equipment have stayed high.

North Dakota wheat grower Jim Pellman said he's currently underwater on his fields, with potential crop revenue of about \$300 per acre right now, compared with the roughly \$450 he needs to break even. That means he'll wait for prices to improve before selling his crop.

"We're going to have to store," Pellman said of his wheat.

Abundant rain and humidity have also allowed a crop fungus to thrive. Scouts saw signs of fusarium head blight, more commonly known as scab, in many fields in which grain heads appear shriveled and white or develop a pinkish, salmon hue. The fungus creates plant toxins that sicken humans and animals, and farmers are forced to take discounts at the grain elevator to account for the sub-par quality.

Scab has been an issue for years, and seed makers have worked to create varieties less prone to the fungus while many farmers apply fungicide to protect against it.

"This year, the scab conditions are so favorable that they may overwhelm all of the management," said Anne Osborne, project manager at National Wheat Foundation, which also holds a contest for the biggest-yielding farms.

"We're excited to see big yields," she added. "We're still concerned about profitability and what the impact of scab will be with the low prices and potential discounts."

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/28/wheat-supplies-set-to-expand-with-record-north-dakota-yields/>