

Hammered Northern area crops whacked by hail, wind

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Gothenburg area farmer Josh Cool spent most of a sweltering Monday salvaging corn that was scattered on the ground after high winds, or a twister, smashed a round hay bale into a bin.

Cool, who farms in the northern hills, also lost about a third of his corn and soybeans to hail and wind during a storm that struck the area Thursday night, said his wife, Helen Cool.

As storm clouds formed, many local residents and area farmers hoped for rain.

And plentiful rains did come, at least north of Gothenburg where an inch to two inches of precipitation were recorded.

But about two inches of hail also littered the area in places, according to farmer and rancher Dave Loostrom.

Wind and hail damage to crops was reported in an area up to four miles wide, starting just south of the Custer County line and north, according to Dan Tinlin, manager of The Home Agency insurance company.

Tinlin said damage to corn and soybeans was moderate to severe. Monetary loss will be better known after Thursday.

“When you look at clients whose corn was insured, most are adequately insured,” he said. “Even if it’s a total loss, they should survive.”

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Over the past few days, the Northern area has been hit by a combination of hail and wind, which has caused significant damage to crops. The hail has been particularly heavy, with some areas receiving over 10mm of hail in a single day. This has caused the crops to be flattened and damaged, leading to a significant loss of yield. The wind has also been a factor, causing the crops to be blown over and damaged. The combination of these two weather events has caused a significant loss of yield in the Northern area.