



# METROGRO UPDATE



News for neighbors and customers

Issue XXXVII • Winter 2025 • A publication of Metro Water Recovery

## Signs of optimism emerge during harvest at METROGRO Farm

This year produced the second largest wheat harvest in the history of the METROGRO Farm.

The farm has faced numerous challenges over the past several harvests, including drought, excessive rainfall, delayed harvests, and crop damage from wind, hail, and sawflies. But this year, an impressive 521,000 bushels were harvested.

Things were initially looking questionable for the 2025 winter wheat harvest with some fall-time concerns and a lack of snow. However, rain in April and May pulled the crops through, and the farm reaped the benefits. Even sawfly damage is significantly down compared to previous years.

The winter wheat harvest yielded approximately 40 bushels per acre

from a total of 13,000 acres, up from 18 bushels per acre last year.

Weather remained the biggest challenge in 2025. Throughout the harvest in July, there were only 10 days that were not impacted by rain.

In addition to a favorable harvest, another thing was different on the farm this season: Wi-Fi monitoring. Being in such a remote location, certain technologies have been out of reach for the farm. This spring, Wi-Fi became available at the grain house, allowing for a new system to monitor grain bin levels and report any issues requiring maintenance.

The 52,000-acre dryland farm is operated by Metro Water Recovery. Class B Biosolids, known as METROGRO® Cake, are beneficially reused there. 🌱



Silos at the METROGRO Farm during this year's successful harvest.

## Understanding biosolids and why they matter

Biosolids are produced from nutrient-rich organic materials removed during wastewater treatment. They play a vital role in sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

During wastewater treatment, solids settle by gravity. These are then combined with excess microorganisms that eat waste during secondary treatment. These solids are sent to anaerobic digesters for stabilization and treatment.

The end product is METROGRO® Cake, a fully treated fertilizer registered with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and distributed by Metro Water Recovery. This biosolids

fertilizer is regularly tested to meet all state and federal regulations and is highly beneficial for soil health.

METROGRO® Cake is naturally rich in essential nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as micronutrients such as zinc, iron, magnesium, and copper. These nutrients help boost crop yields, improve soil aeration and structure, enhance water retention in sandy soils, and reduce compaction in clay soils.



METROGRO® Cake is loaded into a TerraGator.

Using biosolids also offers several environmental benefits:

- Biosolids restore organic carbon to the soil, helping to capture CO<sub>2</sub> and reduce carbon footprints.
- Unlike chemical fertilizers, biosolids require less fossil fuel energy to produce and pose less risk to groundwater and surface runoff.
- METROGRO® Cake recycles phosphorus, offering a sustainable and circular alternative to mined phosphate rock.

Metro Water Recovery is committed to recycling 100% of the biosolids it produces. 🌱

## How do PFAS impact biosolids?

Metro Water Recovery does not produce, use, or manufacture PFAS. Preliminary sampling results indicate there are low levels of the substances in biosolids. Metro will continue to work with our METROGRO Farmers to ensure safe application. 🌱



Scan code to learn more about PFAS



Questions or comments? The METROGRO Update is a publication of Metro Water Recovery.

If you have questions or comments, please contact:  
Patrick Stanley  
Metro Water Recovery  
6450 York Street  
Denver, CO 80229  
1-800-237-6603  
MetroWaterRecovery.com

## Biosolids distribution for 2025

The chart below summarizes the breakdown of biosolids distributed to the METROGRO Farm, private farms, and a private composter for the first eight months of 2025. All biosolids produced during that period at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility and the Northern Treatment Plant were beneficially reused.

| Distribution from RWHTF ... Dry Tons | Distribution from NTP... Dry Tons |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| METROGRO Farm.....1,251              | METROGRO Farm..... 0              |
| Private farms .....19,220            | Private composter .....1,507      |

A total of 21,978 dry tons (118,902 wet tons) of biosolids was beneficially reused from January through August.

Dry weight is the solids from biological treatment of wastewater after all water is removed. The average METROGRO® Cake solids content for the first eight months of 2025 is 20.29% for RWHTF and 19.01% for NTP. 🌱

