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Chadrad Communications, Inc.  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com



**(S.D.)-Sunflower Association Says Sunflower Harvest Is Well Underway**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/25/2012 09:43 AM

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - The National Sunflower Association says this year's harvest should be done well ahead of average.

A killing freeze in much of the Northern Plains last week put growers into full harvest mode.

The association says that combines will be working steady this week thanks to a forecast of unseasonably warm temperatures and no precipitation.

North Dakota's crop is rated 51 percent good, 35 percent fair, 7 percent poor, 6 percent excellent and 1 percent very poor. South Dakota's crop is rated 46 percent fair, 27 percent poor, 24 percent good and 3 percent very poor.

Early harvest reports from central North Dakota are coming in at 1,700 to 2,200 pound yields.