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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](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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**(S.D.) - Rain halts farmers but also improves crops**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 05/01/2012 06:44 AM

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Rain across South Dakota during the latter half of last week slowed planting for farmers but also helped improve crop conditions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in the latest crop and weather report that there were 4.1 days suitable for field work this past week. Farmers spent that time planting, lining up seed delivery, applying fertilizers and chemicals, caring for livestock, calving and lambing.

Warm temperatures spread across much of the state early in the week before overcast conditions and rainfall took over.

Topsoil moisture is rated at 91 percent adequate to surplus, and 9 percent short. Subsoil moisture is 81 percent adequate to surplus, 17 percent short, and 2 percent very short.

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