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(Neb.) - 2011 Nebraska oil production tops 2.5M barrels

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/16/2012 08:20 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska's oil production exceeded 2.5 million barrels last year, reaching that level for the first time since 2004.

Bill Sydow is director of the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. He said production increased at the end of 2011 and has continued.

Sydow says several more companies have joined the search for Nebraska oil.

Well permits hit 193 last year, up from 150 in 2010 and about double the number taken in 2009. He says most of them were for oil, but some were for natural gas.

Nebraska's production increase is coming from newer finds in traditional drilling areas.

Officials say the two top-producing oil fields in Nebraska are in Hitchcock County and have just started producing oil within the past year or two.

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