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



(Neb.)-Drought Contributes To State's Climate Change Debate



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/25/2013 06:26 AM

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A harsh summer drought that threatened Nebraska farms and ranches is prompting lawmakers to take a fresh look at climate change.

A bill that would launch a state review of climate change and its possible impact on life in Nebraska advanced out of a committee last week, and is on pace to be debated this year.

Sen. Ken Haar of Malcolm introduced legislation that would direct the state's climate-assessment commission to draft a report for lawmakers and the governor. Haar has chosen the measure as his "priority bill" for the session.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor Clinton Rowe says the higher temperatures will likely translate into a more arid climate with heavier but less frequent rainfall for farmers.