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**(Neb.)- USDA Predicts Demand For Crops, Livestock To Grow**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/11/2013 02:11 PM

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - The U.S. Agriculture Department predicts that demand for crops and livestock will continue to grow as global population increases over the next decade, and producers should be able to meet the demand.

The USDA said Monday American farmers will have to find ways to boost what they harvest out of each acre, and farmers overseas will have to expand production.

USDA economist David Stallings says he believes agriculture will be able to continue what it has done for the past 100 years and expand production enough to satisfy demand.

The report is most useful in identifying long-term trends, and the government uses it to assess the impact of new policies. But the report is based on numerous assumptions, including normal weather patterns, steady economic growth and no big surprises.