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(S.D.)-Heat Stressing South Dakota Row Crops, Rain Needed



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 08/27/2013 08:56 AM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Ag officials say South Dakota's heat wave is putting a lot of stress on crops.

The U.S. Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that the dry conditions helped the small grain harvest, but row crops are in need of more rain.

At the end of last week, winter wheat, spring wheat, oats and barley were all behind average and also behind where the crops were at this time last year.

Corn at the dough stage was behind last year but ahead of average, while soybeans setting pods and sunflowers blooming were slightly behind average.

The third cutting of alfalfa was 49 percent complete, behind 68 percent last year but ahead of the 46 percent average.