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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.)- Recent Rains Lift Spirits Of SD Farmers, Ranchers**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 05/22/2013 04:11 PM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - State Climatologist Dennis Todey (TAH'dee) says recent rains across much of South Dakota have improved the outlook for farmers and ranchers hurt by a year-long drought.

Todey says the rain will get crops started and help grass grow in pastures. But he says the deeper levels of the soil have not been recharged, so continued rain will be needed to keep the grass green and let corn and other crops grow.

Bob Wilcox, who farms south of Fort Pierre in central South Dakota, says he will have to plant new crops to replace the winter wheat that never grew after it was planted last fall. But he says more than two inches of rain fell in his area in the past week, and that has lifted everyone's spirits.