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(Regional)-Rain Eases Drought For Some, But Not All



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/25/2013 09:31 AM

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Rain that moved across the Midwest in the past week has helped ease drought conditions for some farmers.

The weekly drought monitor report from the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska was released Thursday. It shows the rain that caused flooding in some areas of the Midwest helped decrease the drought area from the upper Midwest into the western corn belt and central portions of the Rockies and Great Plains.

But there's a new problem: The heavy rain has left fields muddy in Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois. And that means corn planting will be behind schedule.

All of the country's drought-parched states aren't out of the woods. The report shows drought is intensifying from western Texas into northern California.