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**(Neb.)-Rain And Snow Hamper Field Work, But Provide Much-Needed Moisture**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/16/2013 08:29 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Last week's rain and snow hampered work in Nebraska's fields but boosted soil moisture.

The U.S. Agriculture Department said Monday in its weekly agricultural survey report that despite the rain and snow the topsoil moisture was rated 53 percent very short or short. Subsoil moisture was rated 93 percent short or very short.

About 12 percent of Nebraska's wheat crop was rated in good or excellent condition, while 50 percent was rated poor or very poor.

The report says 58 percent of the expected oat crop has been planted. That trails last year's figure of 73 percent but is ahead of the 51 percent average by this date.