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Nebraska Crops Suffering

The recent warm, dry weather is putting stress on Nebraska's crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it lowered crop condition ratings statewide because of the lack of moisture. Farmers are responding by turning on irrigation systems where they're available.

Temperatures across Nebraska were about 4 degrees above normal on average last week.

About 70 percent of Nebraska's corn crop is in good or excellent shape. That's below the average of 78 percent good or excellent.

But the heat has helped the soybean crop develop quickly. About 97 percent of the soybeans have emerged, up from the average of 79 percent. About 64 percent of the soybean crop is in good or excellent shape.

The wheat harvest has begun in southeast Nebraska and should quickly move west across the state.

Associated Press