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### Drought Expected to Cause Popcorn Shortage

(KLZA) All of the crops have been affected by the historic drought. That includes the popcorn crop.

Gary Smith is president of the American Popcorn Company, which owns Jolly Tim Popcorn. The Sioux City, Iowa based company has contracts with popcorn farmers in Nebraska and Iowa. 90 percent of the company's popcorn comes from Nebraska growers and the popcorn crop is affected by the drought just like other crops. Smith says he expects a popcorn shortage. ( play audio :12 seconds )

With the popcorn shortage looming, Smith says the Nebraska popcorn crop is doing o.k. compared to some other areas of the country. ( play audio :15 seconds )

Smith says with field corn prices at record highs, popcorn companies have to pay more to keep farmers from shifting away from growing popcorn. He says they are already paying record high contracts to farmers and he expects contracts to go higher next year. He is worried about a customer backlash. ( play audio :23 seconds )

Nebraska News Network