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Signs Drought may be Easing in Nebraska

(KTNC) - There have been some promising signs of an easing – but not an end to – the drought. Though Nebraska didn't receive the moisture expected from the most recent snowstorms, State Climatologist Al Dutcher says the weather is starting to lay a foundation of moisture to the south of the state. (play audio :16 “early summer period.”)

Dutcher sees signs of improvement. (play audio :18 “subsoil moisture.”)

Unfortunately, average rainfall won't put a dent in the rainfall deficits. (play audio :21 “impact the drought.”)

Dutcher says that, ideally, the state needs to return to a normal rain pattern with temperatures low enough to keep vegetation from robbing a needed build-up of subsoil moisture. Rainfall deficits since the end of July 2011 range from 9-to-12 inches in west-central Nebraska, to nearly 20-inches in northeastern Nebraska.

Nebraska Radio Network