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### Missouri FSA Beginning Drought Assessments

Missouri Farm Service Agency workers are spreading out over farms and fields throughout the state assessing damages from the heat and drought. The assessments are under the order of Governor Nixon.

Missouri FSA Director Eddie Hamill says the drought in Missouri is nearly at a crisis level. He says the weather forecast for the week or more of hot and dry conditions is a big concern for corn, which is at a critical developmental stage. (play audio :15 “subsoil moisture.”)

Hamill says sorghum and cotton are also under heavy stress, less so for soybeans right now.

The damage assessments will be turned into Nixon by July 6th, who will turn them over to the U-S Department of Agriculture for consideration of a disaster declaration.

If a disaster is declared, farmers could apply for FSA emergency loans and other assistance.

The southeast Missouri region has the most severe drought conditions of the state but the disaster assessments are for all 114 Missouri counties.

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