

Farm loan delinquencies highest in 9 years

**WICHITA, Kan. (AP) - The nation's farmers are struggling to pay back their loans after years of low crop prices, with nearly one out of five loans in a government farm program now delinquent for the worst January default rate in at least nine years.**

**The bulk of the nation's agricultural loans typically come due around Jan. 1 for seasonal and tax planning purposes.**

**Figures recently compiled show an overall jump nationwide in delinquencies for producers with direct loans from the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency.**

**David Schemm, executive director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency, says 19.4 percent of FSA direct loans nationwide were delinquent in January, compared to 16.5 percent the same month a year ago.**

Associated Press