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### Warm January Zaps Soil Moisture for Farmers

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) - A new report says January's warm, dry and windy weather in Kansas is sapping soil moisture and hurting the state's winter wheat crop.

But in its report Monday, Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service also says the unusually mild weather is helping livestock producers as calving begins and helping stretch the hay and forage supplies.

The condition of the winter wheat crop declined this month, with 12 percent in poor to very poor condition as of Sunday. About 39 percent of the wheat was listed in fair condition, while 42 percent was rated as good and 7 percent excellent.

Associated Press