Moran Urges USDA to Approve Disaster Designations

Designation Would Make Livestock Producers Eligible for Tax Deferment

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today urged the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Ann Veneman, to approve drought designations for 81 counties across Kansas. Approving the disaster designations would give producers who were forced to sell off all or part of their livestock due to weather-related disasters the option of deferring the taxes from the sales until next year.

"During a time when producers are experiencing the devastating results of multi-year drought, we must do everything possible to ensure that government decisions affecting their operations are made promptly," Moran said.

If the applications are approved by the USDA, then all counties in the state would qualify as a primary or contiguous disaster area. In addition to the tax deferment, the designation would also make producers eligible for low interest operating loans.

"These applications were submitted to the USDA in 2003, and with tax season just around the corner, our producers need an answer," Moran concluded.

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