

8/26/2003 Moran Supports Emergency Drought Relief for Kansas

Moran Supports Emergency Drought Relief for Kansas

New System Allows Quick Decisions on Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced his support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) decision to release Kansas acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for emergency haying and grazing.

"The summer of 2003 has been as bad or worse than previous summers with many of the same results - dried up water sources and ruined crops," Moran said. "Opening up CRP for haying and grazing will help as our farmers and ranchers work to survive another harsh summer."

This year, USDA has implemented a new system to allow counties to receive approval more quickly. Counties can now send a written request to the state FSA Director who makes the decision. The director looks at the U.S. Drought Monitor to identify if the county is in an extreme drought situation. This new process greatly increases the speed of decisions.

So far, Reno, Stafford, Brown and Doniphan Counties have been approved for emergency haying and grazing. A number of other counties have applied.

"It's good that the state FSA is able to use this new system and greatly improve the system of approving emergency requests," Moran concluded.

For more information on the CRP release, contact your local Farm Service Agency offices.

###