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Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Pat Roberts and First District Congressman Jerry Moran (R-KS) today said the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Kansas for emergency grazing due to serious and long-term drought conditions.

The Kansas Farm Service Agency recommended 21 counties receive this designation including: Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Greeley, Hamilton, Stanton, Rawlins, Thomas, Logan, Wichita, Kearny, Grant, Decatur, Sheridan, Gove, Scott, Finney, Norton, Graham, Trego and Lane.

In early June, Senator Roberts and Congressman Moran wrote letters urging U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman to release CRP acreage immediately for emergency grazing. "I am pleased USDA quickly acted on our requests to bring relief to Kansas producers hit hard by the drought," Senator Roberts said. "By allowing the emergency grazing of CRP land, producers can prevent damage to grazing and crop acreage."

"The past five years of drought have placed a tremendous pressure on pastures, forcing some producers to sell livestock or move them out of state," Moran said. "Absent moisture, this is at least one step we can take to help our producers stay in business."

"I would like to praise the quick response of the agency for releasing CRP for emergency grazing," said Bill Fuller, state executive director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency. "This was achieved with the leadership of Senator Roberts and

Congressman Moran, with the support of wildlife and livestock organizations."

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