

9/03/2004 Moran Announces Wheat Producers Eligible for Crop Insurance Due to Wheat Sprout Damage

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Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran, Chairman of the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee, today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) has amended its original decision on wheat sprout damage and will allow certain types of blended samples to be eligible for crop insurance wheat farmers.

"The announcement by the RMA, while late, is still in time to help Kansans who have been affected by wheat sprout damage," Moran said. "Producers in northwest Kansas have been hit especially hard by wheat sprout damage and I have been working with the RMA to correct their initial decision. The amount of assistance involved with this decision could reach as high as \$15 to 20 million for Kansas."

The RMA had previously declared that some farmers who suffered quality loss from wheat sprout would not be eligible to receive crop insurance payments due to incorrect sampling methods. In response, Moran urged RMA Administrator Ross Davidson to respond to the crisis facing Kansas farmers, and asked them to reconsider their strict interpretation of the guidelines.

"Bureaucracy should never stand in the way of common sense," Moran said. "The decision by the RMA will help producers that have quality loss due to wheat sprout damage."

For more information, producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA offices.

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