

8/27/2007 Moran Announces Sign-up Dates for Livestock and Crop Disaster Programs

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced sign-up dates for three U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster assistance programs that will provide aid to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in 2005, 2006 and through February 28, 2007. The assistance was approved by Congress in May.

"In Kansas, we have struggled through five and six years of drought followed by last year's strong winter storms in December that led to 44 of Kansas' 105 counties being declared natural disasters," Moran said. "Tornadoes, hail and floods have now affected the rest of Kansas. In total, 65 of the 69 counties I represent have been declared federal disaster areas in 2007. A top priority for me this year has been to see that the producers in Kansas who have been devastated by extreme weather are given the modest support needed to stay on their feet and continue feeding our nation."

The federal assistance covers crop and livestock losses that resulted from natural disasters in years 2005 and 2006, as well as for crops planted before February 28, 2007, and livestock losses occurring up to February 28, 2007. Eligible farmers, ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), which compensates livestock producers for feed losses; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), which compensates producers for livestock losses; and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), which provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops if the crop was planted or would have been planted before February 28, 2007.

Program sign-up for eligible ranchers and livestock producers for the LCP and LIP programs will begin on September 10. CDP sign-up for quantity losses to crops will begin on October 15 for eligible farmers. The CDP sign-up date for quality losses has not yet been announced.

Kansas farmers and ranchers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office with questions and to determine eligibility. More information is available on USDA's Farm Service Agency Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> . Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

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