

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD SAYS USDA RELEASING CRP ACREAGE TO COLORADO RANCHERS FOR EMERGENCY GRAZING TWELVE COLORADO COUNTIES EFFECTED BY DECISION

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) on Wednesday was informed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman that the USDA will release Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands in twelve Colorado counties to ranchers for emergency grazing due to the extreme drought conditions. CRP lands will be made available in Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Dolores, Huerfano, Kiowa, La Plata, Las Animas, Montezuma, Prowers, San Miguel and Pueblo counties beginning immediately.

“Colorado is facing its worst drought in the last hundred years, so this quick action by Secretary Veneman to release CRP lands for emergency grazing may make the difference in allowing several Colorado ranchers to survive the drought,” said Allard after being told of the decision over the phone by the Secretary of Agriculture. “I commend the Secretary of Agriculture for responding so quickly to my request for the USDA to release these lands.”

On May 8th, Senator Allard wrote Secretary Veneman stressing that several Colorado counties have already requested the emergency release of CRP lands for grazing, and due to drought conditions immediate action was needed by the USDA.

“Several Colorado counties - already suffering from weather-related natural disasters - have requested that you make available certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage for emergency grazing,” wrote Allard in his letter to Veneman. “Colorado producers need relief