

Wayne Allard

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Contact: Sean Conway
(970) 351-7582
Kelly Brady
(202) 224-5946

ALLARD SAYS USDA RELEASING CRP ACREAGE TO COLORADO FARMERS FOR EMERGENCY HAYING 30 COLORADO COUNTIES AFFECTED BY DECISION

Washington, D.C.- U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has been informed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman that the United States Department of Agriculture(USDA) on Tuesday will release Conservation Reserve Program(CRP) lands in 30 Colorado counties to farmers and ranchers for emergency haying due to the drought conditions. The total amount of acres being made available by USDA in Colorado will be 2, 192,000 acres.

In May, Senator Allard asked that CRP lands be opened up for emergency grazing, and the USDA released CRP acreage in 30 Colorado counties. In June, Allard asked the USDA to consider opening up CRP lands for emergency haying due to the on-going drought.

“Colorado continues to face a catastrophic drought,” said Allard. “We need to provide our farmers and ranchers with every option we can in order to help them make it through these very difficult times.”

In addition to asking for the release of CRP lands, Allard is an original co-sponsor of the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2002 and requested the USDA provide additional support for drought stricken farmers and ranchers. In response, the USDA created several new programs that are being administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) to help prevent erosion and overgrazing.

The Colorado Counties in which CRP lands will be released by USDA are: Adams, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Cheyenne, Crowley, Dolores, El Paso, Elbert, Huerfano, Kiowa, Kit Carson, La Plata, Las Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Moffat, Montezuma, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Miguel, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

Farmers and ranchers who want to find out if they qualify for emergency CRP haying assistance should contact their local Farm Service Agency(FSA) office.

