

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD SAYS USDA EXTENDING TIME LINE FOR CRP LANDS IN COLORADO FOR EMERGENCY GRAZING 37 COLORADO COUNTIES EFFECTED BY DECISION

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) on Friday morning was informed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman that USDA will extend until November 30, 2002 emergency grazing on more than 2.2 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands in 37 Colorado counties to ranchers due to the extreme drought conditions in the state. The proclamation allowing the for emergency grazing by USDA on CRP lands was set to expire on August 31st. Allard had requested the extension earlier this month in both a letter and in a phone call to Secretary Veneman.

“Colorado continues to fight its way through the worst drought in the last hundred years, so this quick action by Secretary Veneman to extend the release of CRP lands for emergency grazing may make the difference in allowing several Colorado ranchers to survive this devastating drought,” said Allard after being told of the decision over the phone Friday morning by the Secretary of Agriculture. “I commend the Secretary of Agriculture for responding so quickly to my request that USDA extend the time period on these CRP lands for emergency grazing. Secretary Veneman’s decision will literally save many Colorado ranchers from having to sell off their livestock of at distress-sale prices.”

On August 7th, Senator Allard wrote Secretary Veneman asking that she extend the emergency grazing time period on CRP lands in Colorado due to the continuing drought conditions in the state. Yesterday, Allard made a personal phone call to her office asking that the decision be made quickly in order to prevent a massive sell off of Colorado livestock.

“Water sources continue to dry up, and little relief in sight. The grazing deadline is set to expire on August 31, 2002 yet disastrous drought conditions persist” wrote Allard in his letter to Veneman. “Colorado producers need relief now and an expedient decision is required as cattle producers must soon make operational decisions.”

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