



# NEWS RELEASE

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## GLICKMAN ISSUES OKLAHOMA DROUGHT DISASTER DESIGNATION

WASHINGTON, July 26, 1998 -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today designated most counties in Oklahoma as disaster areas due to drought and excessive heat. Sixty-six of Oklahoma's 77 counties received the disaster designation. Only the northeastern corner of the state has escaped serious agricultural losses from the drought.

"This drought is doing major damage to farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma," said Glickman. "President Clinton is sending me to Oklahoma and Texas this week to view the damage first-hand and to let the producers there know that this Administration is taking action to get them assistance quickly and efficiently."

The National Weather Service predicts a high probability of continued drought throughout the rest of the 1998 growing season. Farmers in other states are also suffering from the drought. The entire state of Florida was designated a disaster area on July 10, and Texas received a disaster designation for all counties July 23.

Under this declaration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) makes available low-interest loans to eligible farmers in the designated counties and contiguous counties who have suffered a loss of 30 percent or more on any single crop. Qualifying producers must be creditworthy, unable to obtain credit elsewhere, and have adequate collateral to secure the loan. The program is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), which provides crop insurance to growers of major crops, is mobilizing its Oklahoma personnel to handle a large number of expected loss claims as a result of the drought. RMA projects about \$20.5 million in 1998 crop insurance indemnities for the state, mainly for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, peanuts and soybeans. The department also is making available assistance under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). This FSA program provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops for which crop insurance is not available.

"We know what this kind of disaster can mean to farmers, especially those already hurt by the current market conditions," said Glickman. "We're going to do everything we can to help drought-afflicted farmers here and elsewhere in America."

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Farmers and ranchers who have suffered damages are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Centers or FSA county offices for further information. These are listed in telephone books under "U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture." Farmers who have crop losses should notify their crop insurance agent immediately.

A list of primary and contiguous disaster counties follows.

The counties designated as primary disaster areas are:

Atoka	Cleveland	Grady	Johnston	Marshall	Pontotoc
Beaver	Coal	Grant	Kingfisher	McClain	Pottawatomie
Beckham	Comanche	Greer	Kiowa	McCurtain	Pushmataha
Blaine	Cotton	Harmon	Latimer	McIntosh	Roger Mills
Bryan	Custer	Harper	Le Flore	Murray	Seminole
Caddo	Dewey	Haskell	Lincoln	Okfuskee	Stephens
Canadian	Ellis	Hughes	Logan	Oklahoma	Texas
Carter	Garfield	Jackson	Love	Okmulgee	Tillman
Choctaw	Garvin	Jefferson	Major	Pittsburg	Washita
					Woods
					Woodward

Contiguous counties in which disaster aid is also available under this designation:

		<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	
	Alfalfa	Kay	Sequoia
	Cimmaron	Muskogee	Tulsa
	Creek	Noble	Wagoner
	Kay	Payne	
		<b>ARKANSAS</b>	
	Little River	Scott	
	Polk	Sebastian	
	Scott	Sevier	
		<b>KANSAS</b>	
	Barber	Harper	Seward
	Clark	Meade	Stevens
	Comanche	Morton	Sumner
		<b>TEXAS</b>	
Bowie	Cooke	Hemphill	Red River
Childress	Fannin	Lamar	Sherman
Clay	Grayson	Lipscomb	Wheeler
Collingsworth	Hansford	Montague	Wichita
Cooke	Hardeman	Ochiltree	Wilbarger

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