

News Release

Nebraska Cattlemen

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For Immediate Release

Nebraska Cattlemen Urging Producers to Request FSA Offices Seek Drought Relief

(June 12, 2006) LINCOLN, NE – Nebraska Cattlemen leaders say state and federal officials have been receptive to their requests for help in addressing drought conditions. However, in order for assistance to be made available, producers need to get their county Farm Service Agency officials to submit a request for drought assistance.

“Governor Heineman, our congressional delegates and Ag Secretary Johanns have agreed to do whatever they can to help address the concerns,” NC President Pete McClymont said. “But the fact of the matter is that nothing is going to happen unless producers ask their county FSA director and committee to request assistance.”

NC made visits to all five Nebraska congressional offices in Washington last week requesting assistance in drought relief. Congressman Osborne responded by addressing a letter to Ag Secretary Johanns.

Osborne’s letters stated “Given your interest in the welfare of Nebraska’s farmers and ranchers, I would like to bring to your attention a situation that is of increasing concern to rural Nebraskans. Although the summer has just gotten underway, the U.S. Drought Monitor has already classified a significant portion of the Third Congressional District of Nebraska as being in a D1 or D2 drought.

“This severe dryness is impacting cattle producers who are considering removing their cattle from pastures. A source of relief for producers in this situation would be to allow emergency haying and grazing on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). These producers are sensitive to the needs of the wildlife that inhabit CRP acres, but are extremely concerned about the lack of pasture that is available to their cattle this early in the summer. I would sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request to allow immediate emergency haying and grazing on CRP ground.”

“Governor Heineman submitted a letter to USDA, as has Congressman Osborne,” McClymont said. “These and similar support we’ve received from our other elected representatives are appreciated and necessary, but I can’t over emphasize that it is equally important that producers contact their county FSA office.”

The Nebraska Cattlemen association serves as the spokesman for the state’s beef cattle industry and represents professional cattle breeders, ranchers and feeders, as well as 48 county and local cattlemen’s associations. Its headquarters are in Lincoln and second office in Alliance serves cattlemen in western Nebraska.

This and other Nebraska Cattlemen information is available at www.nebraskacattlemen.org.