

Drought & Permanent Disaster Resolution

WHEREAS, exceptional droughts are becoming annual events in the United States, and are resulting in agricultural losses totaling tens of billions of dollars annually [1][2][3]; and

WHEREAS, drought and wildfires have resulted in disaster declarations in 1,016 counties in 26 states as of July 12, 2012 [4]; and

WHEREAS, because of inaction on climate change mitigation we expect to see more extreme weather events like drought and wildfire affecting agriculture; and

WHEREAS, we are currently experiencing unprecedented weather in 2012, resulting in 3,215 daily high temperature records in the month of June 2012; and

WHEREAS, the permanent disaster programs for *crops and livestock producers authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, such as SURE*, expired in 2011, leaving farmers and *ranchers* with losses due to weather-related disasters in 2011 and 2012 without adequate assistance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has taken some necessary steps to streamline the disaster declaration process and provide low-interest emergency loans to all qualified farm operators in natural disaster areas.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Farmers Union board of directors supports the legislation sponsored by Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., Kent Conrad, D-N.D., Tim Johnson, D-S.D., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., extending the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for one year in order to provide certainty for U.S. farmers and ranchers while Congress works to pass the next farm bill before current legislation expires on Sept. 30, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to encourage the House of Representatives to expeditiously consider and pass the farm bill before the current bill expires on Sept. 30, 2012, including a robust safety net that provides adequate support to farmers and ranchers during difficult times, such as those accruing after markets collapse or when disasters strikes.

Adopted July 17, 2012

[1] Texas AgriLife Extension Service. 2012. "Updated 2011 Texas agricultural drought losses total \$7.62 billion." Accessed online at <http://today.agrilife.org/2012/03/21/updated-2011-texas-agricultural-drought-losses-total-7-62-billion>

[2] Oklahoma State University. 2011. "Oklahoma agricultural losses from drought more than \$1.6 billion." Accessed online at <http://water.okstate.edu/news-events/news/acs/oklahoma-agricultural-losses-from-drought-more-than-1.6-billion>

[3] Kansas Department of Agriculture. 2011. "Kansas Drought Continues, Production Losses Reach \$1.7 Billion." Accessed online at <http://www.ksda.gov/news/id/405>

[4] U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2012. "USDA Announces Streamlined Disaster Designation Process with Lower Emergency Loan Rates and Greater CRP Flexibility in Disaster Areas." Accessed online at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/07/0228.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&deployment_action=retrievecontent