

REPLY TO:

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145

150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 325
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 363-8832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

July 12, 2012

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

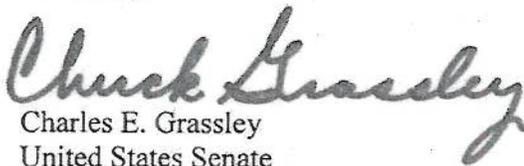
Over the past few weeks I have had a number of Iowans contact me regarding concern over the hot dry weather Iowa has been experiencing, and how those conditions have been tough on Iowa livestock. As the former governor of Iowa you certainly understand the importance of livestock production to our state. In addition, I'm sure you share my concern for Iowa livestock producers as they deal with these difficult weather conditions.

The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that much of Iowa is at D0, Abnormally Dry, or D1, Moderate drought conditions, and drought conditions have only intensified over the last couple weeks. Cattle producers tell me they are having difficulty finding an adequate supply of hay, and many of their pastures are too dry to support their herds at this time.

The particular issue producers have been contacting me about is the ability of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to open up acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for emergency haying and grazing. CRP is a crucial program to help safeguard some of our most environmentally sensitive land. It's also key nesting habitat for a variety of bird species. So it's not without careful consideration of many factors that I request you use your administrative authority to release as many CRP acres as possible for emergency haying and grazing in Iowa.

I appreciate your consideration of my request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate

REPLY TO:

103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 150
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331

307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

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CONTROL CAUCUS