

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) 363-6832

# United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

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 180  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419  
(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204  
(712) 322-7103

July 12, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

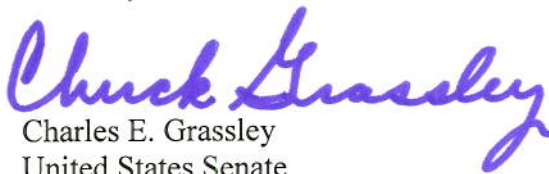
Over the past few weeks I have had a number of Iowans contact me regarding concern over the hot dry weather Iowa has been experiencing, and how those conditions have been tough on Iowa livestock. As the former governor of Iowa you certainly understand the importance of livestock production to our state. 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

RANKING MEMBER,  
JUDICIARY

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE  
BUDGET  
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL CAUCUS