

BYRON L. DORGAN
NORTH DAKOTA
322 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405
202-224-2551
202-224-9378 TDD

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN, INDIAN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

STATE OFFICES:

312 FEDERAL BUILDING
THIRD AND ROSSER AVENUE
P.O. BOX 2579
BISMARCK, ND 58502
701-250-4618
1-800-666-4482 TOLL-FREE

1802 32ND AVENUE S., SUITE B
P.O. BOX 9060
FARGO, ND 58108
701-239-5389

102 NORTH 4TH STREET, ROOM 10E
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
701-746-8972

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105
MINOT, ND 58701
701-852-0703

June 11, 2007

John A. Johnson
Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Stop 0510
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Deputy Administrator Johnson,

As a lead sponsor of the agriculture disaster assistance in the supplemental spending package Congress passed on May 24th (PL 110-48), I hope we can expect timely implementation of the agriculture disaster program.

I urge swift action by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to facilitate timely sign-up and delivery of aid. Our family farmers and ranchers have been waiting a long time for some relief from the weather-related disasters they've suffered, and this aid will literally make all the difference for some family farmers who are on the brink of failure.

In light of the dire need for timely implementation of this program and delivery of aid, I am asking if you can tell me of the process for implementation. When responding to concerned constituents, it would be helpful for me to know what your agency is doing to prepare for the sign-up period.

More importantly, I would also like to know when you expect farmers and ranchers might start receiving disaster program benefits in the future. In the legislation, Congress specified that payments were to be made to producers no later than 60 days after the producer submits a completed application for benefits. At what date can producers expect the sign-up period to begin?

I urge swift implementation of this program by FSA and look forward to your response. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senator