

**STATEMENT OF KARL LIMVERE, ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY,
NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION; ALSO REPRESENTING MIN-
NESOTA FARMERS UNION AND SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS
UNION**

Mr. LIMVERE. Mr. Chairman, Representative Stangeland, Representative Stenholm, we appreciate the opportunity to testify. I am the assistant State secretary of the North Dakota Farmers Union. I am representing not only the North Dakota Farmers Union this morning, but also representing the Minnesota Farmers Union president, Mr. Willis Eken, who is with us also today, and the South Dakota Farmers Union, Dallas Tunsiger, the president.

We are thankful for the actions that have been taken so far and commend the congressional efforts in helping to make disaster assistance available to our States, and while we appreciate what has been done, we also have to be frank. The actions of the Department of Agriculture have not been keeping pace with the need for disaster assistance. Producers are having to make decisions based on what is available now for feed and forage. Considering the economic conditions, they cannot take any further risks waiting to see what and when programs might become available.

To be honest, the opening of the ACR and the conservation-use acres for haying and grazing were more of a goodwill gesture than anything else, than real help. There simply was not very much forage on ACR, or conservation use acreage.

The opening of the Conservation Reserve Program for haying is more significant, but it has not been without its problems. It should also be opened for grazing based on the ability of the individual CRP acres.

Apparently not all CRP acres are open. We have a problem with some that have been designated as wildlife habitat because of a certain mixture of grasses that were planted. These also should be opened up for our producers.

While the Emergency Feed Program has gained rather rapid approval, there has been very serious foot dragging on the Emergency Feed Assistance Program. At this point only three counties in North Dakota are eligible for this program which allows CCC stocks to be purchased by our producers.

When we consider that grain exporters have had access to CCC stocks through the periodic CCC weekly auctions, and have paid—and they have paid significantly less than the normal CCC release price for these stocks, it seems a little inconsistent to delay giving livestock producers facing a drought situation the same kind of opportunity.

We are in an emergency situation that requires very careful management of our remaining reserves, and with the need for making these CCC stocks available for livestock producers, we believe that it is absolutely essential that further CCC auctions are indefinitely postponed.

In addition to dealing with the feed and forage problems arising out of the drought, early action is needed to alleviate some of the economic concerns of producers. We need a legislative change requiring that the 0/92 program be reopened in drought affected counties for failed acres in addition to prevented plantings. This

