

Statement on Assistance for Livestock Producers

July 1, 1996

Our Nation's livestock producers are hurting. A severe drought in the Southwest has reduced available forage in pastures while raising the cost of cattle feed. Producers also have been hurt by low beef prices.

I am taking action today to help livestock producers weather these tough times. Specifically, I am declaring a State of Emergency in the Southwest and other areas, enabling the Secretary of Agriculture to release about \$40 million in needed assistance to producers from the Feed Grain Disaster Reserve.

The Department of Agriculture will sell about 15 million bushels of grain from the Disaster Reserve, in order to make disaster assistance payments to livestock producers in the drought

region. The Department will make the sales in a way that minimizes market disruptions.

Secretary Glickman and Deputy Secretary Rominger recently visited some of the areas hardest hit by the drought, and I have heard from Members of Congress and others about the situation there. I know how badly producers are suffering, and I am determined to do whatever I can to help.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: The proclamation on the declaration of a state of emergency and release of feed grain from the disaster reserve is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Assistance for Livestock Producers

July 1, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Today, I have proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the extended drought in the Southwest, and other natural disasters in feed grain-producing areas of the United States. The proclamation of a State of Emergency will permit the Secretary of Agriculture ("Secretary") to release feed grain supplies from the Disaster Reserve to assist livestock producers that have been greatly harmed by the drought. The Secretary has prepared a plan that would implement the

disposition of the feed grain supplies from the Disaster Reserve.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Announcing Emergency Action To Prevent Church Burnings

July 2, 1996

Good morning. I'd like to begin today by saluting the law enforcement officers who made the arrest in Arizona yesterday to avert a terrible

terrorist attack. Their dedication and hard work over the last 6 months may have saved many lives, and they deserve our thanks. I'd like to