

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 376

To provide emergency livestock assistance and emergency crop loss assistance to agricultural producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop year losses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide emergency livestock assistance and emergency crop loss assistance to agricultural producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop year losses.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Farmer
5 and Rancher Assistance Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Under title I of the Food Security and
9 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–
10 171), the majority of projected commodity program

1 spending depends on market prices for the major ag-
2 ricultural commodities.

3 (2) Changes in actual market prices for these
4 commodities can significantly alter the costs in-
5 curred by the Commodity Credit Corporation to fund
6 these commodity programs.

7 (3) According to a recent comparison of the
8 July 2002 Food and Agriculture Policy Research In-
9 stitute baseline estimate and actual mid-July 2002
10 market prices, recent increases in market prices for
11 certain agricultural commodities are projected to re-
12 duce commodity program costs for the 2002 crop
13 year by more than \$6,000,000,000.

14 (4) As a result of these commodity program
15 cost savings, Commodity Credit Corporation funds
16 are available to provide direct assistance to Amer-
17 ican farmers and ranchers who suffered 2001 or
18 2002 crop year losses due to natural disasters.

19 (5) Crop insurance is an important risk man-
20 agement tool that is available to American farmers
21 and ranchers and should be fully utilized in order to
22 limit financial exposure to weather-related crop
23 losses.

24 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to direct
25 the Secretary of Agriculture to use unspent loan deficiency

1 payment and counter-cyclical payment funds to provide
2 emergency livestock assistance and emergency crop loss
3 assistance to American farmers and ranchers who suffered
4 2001 or 2002 crop year losses due to natural disasters.

5 **SEC. 3. LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to section 5, the Sec-
7 retary of Agriculture shall use the funds, facilities, and
8 authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make
9 and administer payments for livestock losses to producers
10 for 2001 or 2002 losses in a county that has received an
11 emergency designation by the President or the Secretary
12 in calendar year 2001 or 2002. The Secretary may reserve
13 for the American Indian Livestock Feed Program a por-
14 tion of the funds available to carry out this section.

15 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall make as-
16 sistance available under this section in the same manner
17 as provided under section 806 of the Agriculture, Rural
18 Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Re-
19 lated Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law
20 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–51).

21 **SEC. 4. CROP LOSS ASSISTANCE.**

22 (a) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to section 5, the Sec-
23 retary of Agriculture shall use the funds, facilities, and
24 authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make
25 emergency financial assistance available to producers on

1 a farm that have incurred qualifying crop losses for the
2 2001 or 2002 crop due to damaging weather or related
3 condition, as determined by the Secretary.

4 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall make as-
5 sistance available under this section in the same manner
6 as provided under section 815 of the Agriculture, Rural
7 Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Re-
8 lated Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law
9 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–55), including using the same
10 loss thresholds for the quantity, quality, and economic
11 losses as were used in administering that section.

12 **SEC. 5. SOURCE OF FUNDING.**

13 (a) ESTIMATION OF FARM PROGRAM SAVINGS.—The
14 Secretary of Agriculture shall estimate the savings to the
15 Commodity Credit Corporation to be derived during the
16 2002 crop year as a result of the lower-than-anticipated
17 costs of the marketing loan program and counter-cyclical
18 payment program of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
19 ment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171).

20 (b) USE OF SAVINGS.—An amount of Commodity
21 Credit Corporation funds equal to the savings estimated
22 under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary
23 to carry out sections 3 and 4.

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