

---

---

**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** BOYD  
**SUBJECT:** SWEET POTATO LOSSES AND OTHER CROP LOSSES  
**DATE:** NOVEMBER 14, 2002  
**CC:** RENICK & BENTLEY

---

As you will be in Vardaman, Sweet Potato Capitol of the World, on Wednesday...

You will recall receiving a letter from the Sweet Potato Council regarding crop losses and providing assistance (copy attached). You have sent a letter to the President requesting assistance for crop losses due to heavy rains just prior to harvest. USDA is still compiling data from counties and expects to submit numbers to Washington late next week.

Benny Graves, Crop Analyst, projects that more than 50% of sweet potatoes will be lost this season as a result of the rains. USDA will likely only be able to provide low-interest loans to farmers after approval from Washington. Graves notes that Sen. Daschle has asked for \$6 Billion in relief for 2001 and 2002 crop losses. (This legislation is dead and will not likely be revived under the new Congress.)

Attached is a letter of support for crop payments for loss similar to Democrat's bill to be sent to the Congressional Delegation and Secretary of Agriculture. This is an issue that you need to be out front on.