

November 19, 2001

The Honorable Ann Veneman
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
14th & Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Veneman:

As we were approaching harvest in Mississippi this fall, our State had the potential, in the field, for producing one of the best crops in recent memory. However, in mid-August through September 2001, many parts of the State received excessive moisture coupled with high humidity caused extensive damage to the crops that were mature. We have received many reports of these crops sprouting in the fields, thus resulting in substantial loss in quantity, and loss in quality of these crops.

Based on this occurrence, I am requesting that you direct the USDA County Emergency Boards in Mississippi to complete and submit Damage Assessment Reports to you for review and approval. I also urge you to make any and all possible assistance available to Mississippi producers and ask that any counties affected by adverse weather be declared a disaster area.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this matter. Should you need to contact me, please call my assistant Ms. Marilyn Byrd at 601/359-4066.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/mtb