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by governor.state.ms.us; Fri, 16 Mar 2001 12:59:31 -0600  
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mercury.its.state.ms.us (Netscape Messaging Server 4.15) with  
SMTP id GAB0UE00.F7D; Fri, 16 Mar 2001 13:01:26 -0600  
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by mx1.its.state.ms.us (8.10.0/8.10.0) with ESMTP id f2GJ0cX18880;  
Fri, 16 Mar 2001 13:00:38 -0600 (CST)  
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by indus.house.gov (8.10.0/NOT ALLOWED TO KNOW MY VERSION) id f2GHvv526705;  
Fri, 16 Mar 2001 12:57:58 -0500 (EST)  
X-Authentication-Warning: indus.house.gov: smap set sender to <Burns.Strider@mail.house.gov>  
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id xma026662; Fri, 16 Mar 01 12:57:49 -0500  
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id <GLP03355>; Fri, 16 Mar 2001 12:58:16 -0500  
Message-ID: <435A5CEEACA6D211BEEA0008C75DA8850A9451B0@hrm12.house.gov>  
From: "Strider, Burns" <Burns.Strider@mail.house.gov>  
To:  
Subject: Shows Announces USDA Payments  
Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2001 12:58:06 -0500  
Return-Receipt-To: "Strider, Burns" <Burns.Strider@mail.house.gov>  
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)

Congressman Ronnie Shows  
Mississippi 4th Congressional District

Member: Committee on Agriculture,  
Committee on Financial Services and  
Committee on Veterans Affairs

News Release  
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Congressman Ronnie Shows Announces USDA Sends Promised Crop Loss Payments

[Washington, D.C.] - Compensation for 2000 crop year losses are arriving to pay off last season's loans and secure final arrangements for a new crop year already underway in many parts of the country. In previous years, producer payments had not arrived until April 2000 and as late as June in 1999. Producers began in January making applications for last season's weather-related crop losses, while incoming USDA management worked through a paperwork backlog left behind from September. Congressman Ronnie Shows (MS-04), Member of the US House Agriculture Committee, is pleased to see the USDA accelerating the process to get payments to producers.

"I am very glad to see the USDA begin to accelerate the process of getting much needed payments to our farmers," stated Congressman Shows. "The farmer's ability to get busy with field preparations so they can do their jobs depends on us, here in Washington, getting this red tape under control and flowing resources to our farm communities on a timely basis. This helps rural communities begin the cycle of a new growing season."

County offices of USDA's Farm Service Agency received authority Friday (today) to make producer payments, and in cases of pre-arranged electronic deposits, directly to the producer's bank account. Producers who suffered at least a 35 percent production loss in the 2000 crop year may be eligible for signup that has continued since January 18.

Producers and their lenders can rely on payment equaling 100 percent of the eligible production loss determined by FSA. Congress provided "such sums as may be necessary" without a pro-rate factor imposed in previous years that would have limited payment based on the total number of eligible applicants.

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