



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

June 2, 2000

TO: KENNETH D. ACKERMAN
ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: CLARENCE E MANNING /s/ *Clarence Manning*
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: REGIONAL IRRIGATION ASSESSMENT FOR REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN,
KANSAS - Jewell, Republic, Clay and Cloud Counties, Kansas

The Loss Adjustment Manual (FCIC-25010) directs the Regional Office (RO) to provide a regional assessment in order to identify areas and water districts where inadequate irrigation water supply is suspected. We have not received any reports from insurance providers concerning suspected inadequacies of irrigation water but our office has learned a potential shortage exists in the Republican River Basin.

The Kansas Water Office issued a March 16, 2000, advisory to water right holders regarding streamflow in the Republican River which flows out of Harlan Reservoir in Nebraska through **Jewell, Republic, Clay, and Cloud Counties**, Kansas. The advisory stated, "Information from U.S. Geological Survey gages located on the Republican River at Concordia and Clay Center indicate Minimum Desirable Streamflow (MDS) at these locations is not being met." The letter further stated that if conditions did not improve by April 1, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources would be advised to issue water use restrictions to junior water rights (those water rights obtained after April 12, 1984). This would include surface diversions and wells within one to 1½ miles of the Republican River in this four county area.

On May 25, the Kansas Water Office sent a letter to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources requesting "administration of junior water right" (prevention of irrigating under the junior water right). However, recent rains in much of the effected area has allowed the Division of Water Resources to delay any restrictive action for now.



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Request has been made by the Kansas Division of Water Resources to the Army Corps of Engineers to increase the discharge flow from Harlin Reservoir. Preliminary indications are the flow will not be increased unless significant rainfall occurs in the area.

The insured crops grown in these counties which may be affected by the suspected shortage of irrigation water are corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers. Corn and soybeans are the primary irrigated crops. Irrigated barley, oats, and wheat were planted prior to notice of MDS by the Water Board.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact our office.