



United States Department of Agriculture
 Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
 Risk Management Agency

March 18, 2002

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Ross J. Davidson, Jr.
 Administrator

FROM: Mary C. Lynch /s/ *Mary C. Lynch*
 Acting Director

SUBJECT: Regional Irrigation Assessment
 Topeka Regional Office

In accordance with the Loss Adjustment Manual Standards Handbook (FCIC-25010), which 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, the following is the list of counties from the Topeka RO:

Kansas: As of January 14, 2002, the Kansas-Bostwick irrigation district, located primarily in **Republic County, Kansas**, is estimated to receive 24% less water than normal.

Nebraska: The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, Nebraska. The irrigation districts with estimated water allocations are shown below, with the percent change based on a comparison to the 2000-year delivery (as this year was the last year a normal supply was delivered).

Irr District	Est. Farm Delivery (Ac.Inches as of 01/14/02)	% of 2000-Year Delivery
Mirage Flats	6.0"	-33
Frenchman-Cambridge Meeker, Red Willow & Bartley	6.0"	-48
Cambridge Canal	9.0"	-22
Bostwick In Nebraska	11.0"	-23



Nebraska counties affected by the above allocations are **Chase, Dundy, Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Nuckolls, Red Willow, Sheridan, and Webster.**

We have also received information from the Bureau of Reclamation in Mills, Wyoming, which indicates allocations are expected for the North Platte Project. Water in storage for this irrigation district as of March 1, 2002, was 48% of the average for this time of year. This, coupled with the fact that total April-July runoff in the North Platte River above Glendo Dam is forecast to be 48% of the 30 year average, makes the idea of allocation appropriate. The Bureau of Reclamation will update the inflow forecasts again in April and May before indicating exactly what the water allocation will be.

Nebraska counties affected by this allocation are **Scotts Bluff, Sioux, Morrill, and Garden.**

Colorado: Colorado experienced another dry month during February 2002. Statewide snow pack readings decreased slightly on March 1, 2002, and are now at the lowest percentage of this year. Low snow pack readings are widespread across the state, with no basins reporting a near average snow pack. Given these conditions at this late date in the season, below average water supplies are all but certain for the state's water users. Unlike many previous dry winters, reservoir storage continues to track at below average volumes. Without the benefit of surplus reservoir storage, Colorado's water users are now dependent upon spring and summer precipitation to help minimize impacts.

Colorado counties suspected of having a lack of irrigation water are **Pueblo, Otero, Crowley, Bent, and Prowers.**

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