



NEWS RELEASE

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REVISION—PARAGRAPH THREE REWORDED

USDA ISSUES \$60 MILLION FOR LOUISIANA SUGARCANE PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS IN HURRICANE DISASTER PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 2003 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced that \$60 million is available for sugarcane producers and processors who suffered losses in Louisiana from high winds and rain during Hurricanes Isadore and Lili. The Hurricane Assistance Program was authorized in the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 (2003 Act).

“These payments will benefit those Louisiana sugar producers and processors who suffered severe losses from last year’s unpredictable and extremely damaging weather conditions,” said Veneman.

Producers must submit 2002 crop production loss information directly to sugarcane processors. Once this information is received and certified by USDA’s Farm Service Agency, payments will be made directly to the processors. The processors will then allocate a portion of the payments to producers based on their pre-established revenue-sharing agreements.

Applicants must be sugarcane processors located in Louisiana who are eligible to obtain loans under section 156(a) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, 7 U.S.C. 7272(a). Applications must be submitted in accordance with requirements and deadlines in a Federal Register notice published August 7.

USDA has developed a Web site that provides producers with one convenient location for details on new and existing disaster assistance. The Web site can be accessed at <http://disaster.usda.gov>.

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