For Immediate Release
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20,000 Drought Affected Farmers to be Given Work Aid by WPA in Southern States.

Deputy Works Progress Administrator Aubrey Williams announced today that 20,000 farmers residing in drought areas of North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia and Alabama would be put to work at once on WPA work projects in their States.

This brings the total of persons to be given work relief jobs in the drought areas of the West and South to 75,000.

Orders were issued by Mr. Williams to State Works Progress Administrators in the affected areas of the Southern States immediately upon being notified as to prevailing conditions.

The State Administrators were instructed to expedite employment.

Meanwhile, hope was replacing fear in many drought-stricken areas as assignment of destitute farmers to Works Progress Administration projects continued and scattered rains yesterday brought a measure of relief to some sections, Howard O. Hunter, WPA Assistant Administrator in charge of operations in the Central West, said today.

Reports from State Administrators of the Works Progress Administration in the five States hardest hit continued to show the most severe
damage in the Dakotas and the greatest improvement was reported in Minnesota.

Many Minnesota farmers are hopeful of saving their corn crop, which has held up surprisingly well, Victor Christgau, State Administrator, reports, and are looking to WPA jobs only when all possibilities are exhausted on their own farms.

Full effect of the drought in Minnesota will not be realized, Mr. Christgau predicted, until next fall or winter, when it is necessary to buy feed and funds from the sale of crops will not be available. The reservoir of feed is sufficient for present needs, he explained.

"There are no fixed quotas of employment for these States," Mr. Hunter explained. "Our purpose is to give jobs to those who need them, and our schedules will be revised to meet conditions as they exist. Water conservation projects, the need for which was indicated even before the present drought began, are getting under way rapidly.

"As many as 10,000 to 12,000 additional workers have been assigned to Works Progress Administration projects as a result of the drought in these States. This number may be increased to 30,000 or 40,000 depending on weather conditions. There will be ample useful work in seeking to prevent recurrences of such disasters, but emergency employment needs can be calculated only from day to day."

Water conservation projects consist largely of dams, artificial lakes and wells to permit water to be impounded and released through irrigation systems in times of drought.

Although many of the projects are relatively small, one of them now under way in the heart of the Minnesota drought area, the Laq Qui Parle project, will create a lake 20 miles long and approximately two miles wide. It
will employ as many as 3,000 men and will involve an expenditure of $2,500,000, Sam Kidish, Deputy Administrator of Minnesota, said today. He predicted that this project alone "will go a long way toward prevention of drought in this area in the future."

At the same time, Mr. Williams announced that Governor Tom Berry, of South Dakota, would arrive in Washington, Saturday morning, for a series of conferences with drought officials.

Following are the counties in Tennessee, Virginia and South Carolina officially designated by the Department of Agriculture as drought areas:


**South Carolina:** Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, York.

Certain counties in Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina most severly affected by the drought will also be embraced in the Works Progress Administration's program.