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Williams Reports WPA Drought Program Employment Exceeds 35,000 in Western Drought Area.

Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announced late today that employment of destitute farmers in midwestern and western states by the Works Progress Administration has exceeded 35,000 as 31 counties in three states were added to the emergency drought area and new water conservation projects were outlined for Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

Mr. Williams' announcement was based on a report received by him from Howard O. Hunter, Assistant Administrator in charge of drought operations.

Mr. Hunter's report supplemented employment figures announced here earlier in the day. He said North Dakota had assigned more than 60 per cent of its quota for the entire emergency, putting 15,154 to work on WPA projects.

South Dakota, with almost as extensive a program, had assigned approximately 14,000 to WPA jobs.

Montana, with 3,531 farmers at work, was preparing for marked expansion of its water conservation program in the eastern part of the state.

Minnesota had assigned 1,229 to WPA rolls, Wyoming approximately 1,000 and Colorado 614.
The Department of Agriculture designated 21 additional counties in Nebraska as emergency drought areas as Mr. Hunter authorized special representatives from the WPA regional office in Chicago to speed up the employment program in this state, under a special allotment made this week. Similar steps were taken in Kansas and Missouri.

Additional appeals came from Kentucky, where George H. Goodman, State Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, characterized the present drought as the "most serious emergency Kentucky has ever known" and estimated that 33,000 families are in need of aid as a result, not including 4,000 to 5,000 jobless miners for whom limited supplies of commodities are available.