Works Progress Administration Rushes Drought Relief Aid to Kentucky

Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announced today that Kentucky, with more than half its area parched by drought and 33,000 families reported in need of immediate assistance, became the tenth state in the midwest and west to receive emergency aid from the Works Progress Administration.

Howard O. Hunter, Assistant Works Progress Administrator in charge of drought operations, reported to Mr. Williams he had authorized Bruce Uthus, Field Representative, to work out a program with George H. Goodman, State Works Progress Administrator for Kentucky, employing drought victims on water conservation and other useful projects. As in other drought states, the Resettlement Administration will cooperate in extending grants and seed and feed loans, as well as in certifying farmers in need of work to other help.

Eighty of the 120 counties in Kentucky have been classified as emergency drought areas by the Department of Agriculture. The north central and northeastern sections are said to show the greatest crop loss, with small areas bordering Tennessee and Illinois similarly affected. Conditions in some of these sections are described as comparable to the scorched plains of the Dakotas in what Administrator Goodman calls the "most serious emergency Kentucky has ever known."