

THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--

For Release in Morning Newspapers  
Wednesday, September 9, 1936.

WPA Has Put to Work 160,552 Farmers in Two Months of Operation in Drought Areas.

Acting Administrator Corrington Gill announced today that the Works Progress Administration has put to work 160,552 farmers during the 60-day period it has carried on its drought relief program in the western states.

On July 8, the first drought job quota was fixed by the Works Progress Administration.

Assistant Administrator Howard O. Hunter, in charge of drought operations in western states, except Oklahoma, reported to Mr. Gill that 143,052 farmers had been assigned to jobs in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Oklahoma has a total of 17,500 farmers now at work on drought jobs.

Mr. Hunter said the present employment total in his area resulted from the addition of 13,000 farmers to the payroll last week, a daily increase of about 2,000.

This is a reduction of nearly 3,000 daily from the rapid ascent recorded early in August when nearly 5,000 new drought victims were being employed each day.

The largest increases last week, he said, were in the more recently designated states of Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin, where the drought aid program is now in full swing.

However, the biggest drought load still exists in the original drought states of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming, which had 64 per cent of the total. Nearly 66,000 or 46 per cent are on projects in the two Dakotas, where drought devastation extends into every county.

Mr. Hunter reported employment of drought victims by states as follows:

Colorado	2,464
Iowa	4,841
Kansas	6,114
Minnesota	4,950
Missouri	18,206
Nebraska	7,354
N. Dakota	33,166
S. Dakota	32,641
Montana	8,003
Wyoming	1,656
Illinois	1,900
Wisconsin	12,960
Kentucky	8,797

"The WPA Drought Relief machinery is now functioning effectively in all states with the result that the average lag between certification of persons in need and actual employment on projects is but 48 hours," Mr. Hunter said.

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