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## Agriculture News Release - 1993-07-27

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture

E. De la Garza

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# news release

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

(NR93-058)

*For further information:*  
Jim Davis, Press Secretary  
(202) 225-2171  
FAX (202) 225-3158

## **MIDWEST FLOOD RELIEF BILL INCLUDES ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH TEXAS FARMERS, FARMWORKERS**

For immediate release, Tuesday, July 27, 1993

WASHINGTON -- The \$2.98 billion emergency supplemental approved Tuesday by the House of Representatives to assist Midwestern states dealing with the widespread flooding includes authority to help disaster-stricken farmers elsewhere, including South Texas, and could also provide help for farmworkers, said Rep. Kika de la Garza (D-TX).

"It is our responsibility to help the victims of the devastating flooding in the Midwest in their time of need, just as we have done for previous natural disasters. I commend the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee, Agriculture Secretary Espy and particularly President Clinton for making this legislation a top priority," said Rep. de la Garza.

For farmers, the House-passed bill ensures that any farmer who has suffered disaster-related crop losses above 35 percent (or 40 percent if the farmer was not covered by crop insurance) before August 1, 1993 would be eligible for a government disaster payment.

"While the focus has been on the extensive Midwest floods, this supplemental also covers other natural disasters, including the heavy rains and flooding we had in parts of South Texas earlier this year. I am particular pleased the House bill includes language that allows money to be set aside to help farmworkers who are all too often the indirect economic victims of natural disasters that wipe out crops and their source of a livelihood," said Rep. de la Garza.

For farmworkers, the Secretary of Agriculture is encouraged to designate up to \$20 million for an emergency program to help migrant and seasonal farmworkers adversely affected by a natural disaster. This program was authored by Rep. de la Garza and included in the 1990 farm act.

The House bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration. Congressional leaders hope to send the disaster funding bill to the President for signing before the August congressional recess.