



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Risk
Management
Agency

Regional
Office

205 N.W. 63rd Street, Suite 170
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Voice (405) 879-2700
FAX (405) 879-2741

June 2, 2000

TO: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Administrator

FROM: Ronald L. Berryhill /s/ *Ron Berryhill*
Director

SUBJECT: Regional Irrigation Assessment for Bosque, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche,
Eastland, Erath, Hood, Somervell, and Stephens Counties, Texas

This Regional Irrigation Assessment is being provided in accordance with instructions in the Loss Adjustment Manual, FCIC-25010. The Regional Office Director is required to share information about areas suspected of having inadequate water for irrigation with insurance providers operating in the region.

Drought conditions continue to prevail over a fairly large portion of Central Texas. The following counties are being identified as counties where the availability of water for irrigation is suspect:
Bosque, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Somervell, and Stephens.

Counties in this area depend primarily on surface water as a source for irrigation from lakes, rivers, retention ponds, and individual wells that are used to supplement or replace water pumped out of retention ponds. Crops grown in the above listed counties include peanuts, cotton, corn, and grain sorghum.

The Texas Brazos River Authority issued an advisory dated March 1, 2000, to all water users of Lake Proctor in **Comanche** County. The letter stated the water level was then at 1151.01 feet above mean sea level. It indicated short-term water users would be required to cease any diversion of water from the Lake once the water level fell below 1150 ft. A subsequent advisory was issued on or about May 15th requiring short-term water users to curtail any further diversion of water from the Lake. Long-term water users are subject to availability restrictions on a pro rata basis in accordance with rules established by the Brazos River Authority once the level falls below 1147 ft.

Currently, the lake is below the 1150 ft. level, curtailing use of water for irrigation for short-term users but above the 1147 ft. level that would restrict use for long-term users. The letter advises water users to monitor the situation by Internet at www.brazos.org or by calling the Waco Central Office at (254) 776-1441.

We know of no other restrictions currently being considered for this area by the Brazos River Authority or Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. However, because drought conditions continue to prevail throughout much of Central Texas and surface water is a primary source for irrigation in this area, all of the counties identified above should be suspect as far as availability of water for irrigation is concerned.