

Delta Grower Praises Cochran's Disaster Relief



Travis Satterfield,
Delta Council President

Delta Council President Travis Satterfield of Bolivar County expressed appreciation to U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln and U.S. Senator Roger Wicker for “starting the ball rolling” for much-needed agricultural disaster relief. After more than 600% average rainfall between August 15 and October 15, the area-wide economic development organization appealed to the Mississippi Congressional Delegation for agricultural disaster relief. All 82 counties in Mississippi have been declared an agricultural disaster by the United States Department of Agriculture.

“The agricultural disaster assistance included in the Cochran-Lincoln-Wicker proposal will bring timely and meaningful disaster assistance to every major Mississippi crop extending from sweet potatoes to the more traditional row crops of cotton and soybeans,” stated Satterfield.

USDA estimates Mississippi losses, alone, at more than \$300 million, with the greatest losses accruing to sweet potatoes, cotton and soybeans.

“We have very little time left in this session of Congress, and in recognition of that fact, these Senate leaders have stepped out with a proposal which represents the only opportunity for farmers to receive disaster relief before they make preparations for their 2010 crop production loan, --- and we encourage other members of the Senate and House of Representatives to join in this effort to get this done before the Congress leaves town in December,” the Bolivar County farm leader exclaimed.

The Congress will be in recess for Thanksgiving until the first week in December and only has 15-20 days remaining in order to address agricultural disaster relief and other vitally important measures that are on the Congressional calendar.

The National Cotton Council, the American Soybean Association, the U.S. Rice Producers Association and the U.S. Rice Federation have collectively endorsed the Cochran-Lincoln-Wicker proposal, and are encouraging other agricultural groups and members of Congress to address this urgent need.

