

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

FOOD SAFETY 9-20-99

E. coli

Copied
marshall
Reed
Podesta
BaldestonUNITED:RICULTURE

- Tom, EL + return
Tom, can we
do anything? PR
- **D** USDA's Economic Research Service released a detailed analysis of the financial impact of the Mid-Atlantic drought showing, relative to 1998, damage to commodity receipts of \$1.29 billion, \$315 million worse than previously expected. Additionally, the report shows a damage to net farm income of \$1.35 billion, \$230 worse than preliminary estimates. The estimated impacts on net income for the *extreme* and *severe* drought areas totaled over \$840 million alone, while many farm businesses in these areas were already experiencing cash flow problems resulting from unusually low commodity prices. In *severe* drought areas, the share of farms that generate insufficient income to repay debt is expected to more than double, from 8 percent in 1998, to 17 percent in 1999.
 - **Debt Collection:** For the first eight months of 1999, USDA collected \$100.8 million in delinquent debt through the Tax Refund Offset Program (TROP) and the Treasury Offset Program (TOP); a 30 percent increase over the \$77.7 million collected during the same period in 1998.
 - **Commodity Markets:** Wheat cash prices were supported by worries about late harvest in the Northern Plains, but futures were unchanged as traders focused on weakening export prospects. Corn cash prices rose along with soybeans, but the impending larger-than-expected harvest sent futures down. Soybean prices surged across the board on good exports, especially to Mexico and Asia. Rice cash prices were steady, but futures moved higher on prospects for smaller supply and a positive export sales report. Cotton prices rose sharply as USDA's latest production forecast was much lower than the trade expected. Cattle prices advanced in the face of strong retail demand. Declining wholesale carcass values helped send hog prices lower. Broiler prices slipped in the face of large supplies and tepid food service demand.

E. coli: On September 13, Safe Tables Our Priority (S.T.O.P.) called on USDA and the cattle industry to adopt new measures to control E. coli. The food safety interest group recommended that research be made on prevention and eradication of the pathogen in animals; efforts be made to prevent slaughter of infected animals; USDA make mandatory the HACCP food inspection program from farm to the slaughter plant; that strict regulations be imposed on the use of manure as a fertilizer; and that USDA implement mandatory animal waste disposal programs.

cc: Reed
wheat
about
this
PRDEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **Small Manufacturers Summit:** On September 22, Secretary Daley will deliver remarks at a National Manufacturing Summit to be hosted by DOC's National Institute of Standards and Technology. The conference is being held as part of the Secretary's