

Executive Document

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Governor, Administration: Governor's Executive Order: Declaring a State of Agriculture Emergency Due to the Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Infestation

Issued: May 7, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Whereas: Mormon cricket and grasshopper infestation in Utah is the largest in recent history, exceeding 3.3 million acres; and

Whereas: Mormon cricket and grasshopper damage is impacting Utah's agricultural economy as well as the state's wildlife resources; and

Whereas: Mormon cricket and grasshoppers are damaging grains, alfalfa, safflower, rangeland grasses and other crops; and

Whereas: Utah's severe drought conditions this year will exacerbate the threat to farmers and ranchers; and

Whereas, a minimum of \$25 million in crop damage could occur in more than a dozen Utah counties, including: Beaver, Box Elder, Cache, Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Juab, Millard, Morgan, Piute, Rich, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Tooele, Utah, Uintah, Wasatch, Washington and others, and;

Whereas, the numbers of crickets and grasshoppers far out weigh the state's ability to exercise control over such insects whose primary hatching grounds are on federally owned lands; and

Whereas, Mormon cricket and grasshopper populations pose a threat to human health and safety,

Now Therefore, I, Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the state of Utah by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution and the laws of the state of Utah,

Do Hereby declare that a "State of Agricultural Emergency" exists due to the Mormon cricket and grasshopper infestation in the state of Utah and that all such affected areas within the state are declared to be agricultural disasters requiring aid, assistance and relief pursuant to the provisions of state statutes.

In Testimony, Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of Utah, this 7th day of May, 2002.

(State Seal)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Attest:

Olene S. Walker
Lieutenant Governor

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