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MGGA Thanks Baucus, Tester for Bill to Extend SURE for 2012

Great Falls – Montana Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester, along with Senator Kent Conrad, N.D. and Tim Johnson, S.D., have introduced a bill to extend the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for the 2012 crop year.

MGGA worked closely with Senator Baucus to include the SURE permanent disaster program in the 2008 Farm Bill. Designed to provide assistance for crop and livestock losses not covered by crop insurance or other federal programs, funding for SURE ended with the 2011 crop year and no provisions to continue the program for crop losses were included in either the Senate or House versions of the 2012 farm bill.

MGGA Vice President Ryan McCormick, Kremlin, said, “There has been a lot of national press recently about severe crop losses resulting from the widespread U.S. drought. Many Montana farmers, especially those across the southern half of the state, have been caught in the same weather pattern and have suffered from devastating fires, crops not worth harvesting and nonexistent hay and grazing for their livestock. We very much appreciate Senators Baucus and Tester’s efforts to bring them some relief.”

McCormick added, “SURE has worked very well for our farmers over the past few years. It targets assistance to those who have been hit hard by natural disasters, a situation Montana farmers are all too familiar with.”

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