

Here is the latest release of the American Farm Bureau Federation's AgBites: *Soundbites from the Agricultural Beat*. Our issue for this edition is the weather disasters that have hit farmers and ranchers throughout the nation this year. We have soundbites the presidents of the following state Farm Bureaus: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.

You can view, download or imbed these soundbites into your websites through our website at <http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=newsroom.agbites>. You will see the tabs for each state above the video player. Below is a list of the content of each soundbite as well as ins/outs.

### **Jerry Newby – Alabama Farmers Federation President**

1. **Tornado Damage Lingers:** Alabama Farmers Federation President Jerry Newby describes the severe damage to farms in Alabama after the April 27<sup>th</sup> tornado outbreak.

In/Out: "Quite a few...because of the storm."

2. **Out of State Help Means a Lot:** ALFA President Jerry Newby offers thanks to all of those who helped Alabama recover after severe storms struck the state in April.

In/out: "I'd just like...all feel better."

### **Randy Veach - Arkansas Farm Bureau President**

1. **Floods Bring Big Losses** Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach describes the big losses farmers suffered thanks to Mother Nature.

In/Out: "We had about...drought in southern Arkansas."

2. **Staying in Business:** - Without a good safety net, one bad year can put a farmer out of business, explains Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach.

In/Out: "Sometimes producers need...lose our producers."

3. **Floods vs. Farmland:** - Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach explains why he thinks it is important to preserve the nation's valuable farmland.

In/Out: "A lot of land...highly productive land."

### **Zippy Duvall – Georgia Farm Bureau President**

1. **Tough Growing Season:** Georgia Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall details the tough growing season endured by farmers in his state.

In/Out: "In Georgia we...very minimum crop."

2. **Long Road to Recovery:** Georgia Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall says it will take years for his state to recover from multiple years of drought.

In/Out: "We've had multiple years...in north Georgia."

3. **We Value Water Resources:** Georgia Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall describes the way Georgia farmers are working to protect the nation's water supply.

In/Out: "I'd like the average American...quantity and quality."

4. **Worst in 65 Years?:** Georgia Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall explains why he thinks 2011 may be the worst drought in his state in about 65 years.

In/Out: "We've been extremely dry...in my area."

### **Ronnie Anderson - Louisiana Farm Bureau President**

1. **Season of Extremes:** Louisiana Farm Bureau President Ronnie Anderson says it's been a season of extremes for his state's farmers.

In/Out: "It was really unusual...other side was flooded."

### **Blake Hurst - Missouri Farm Bureau President**

1. **Mother Nature's Wrath:** Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst describes the extreme weather that has made this a tough year for many farmers in his state.

In/Out: "In Missouri we started...extreme weather in Missouri."

2. **Crops Under Water:** A lot of Missouri cropland stayed underwater for months. Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst describes the consequences.

In/Out: "In my county...income shocks for Missouri farmers."

3. **Flooding Fallout:** Severe flooding causes more damage to farm fields than most people realize. Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst describes how.

In/Out: "We'll have sand deposits...original productivity."

4. **At Mother Nature's Mercy:** Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst recalls a simple fact: farmers and ranchers are always at the mercy of Mother Nature.

In/Out: "Farmers, we've become...mercy of Mother Nature."

### **Mike White – New Mexico Farm Bureau President**

1. **Dire Situation:** New Mexico Farm Bureau President Mike White describes the dire situation facing many farmers and ranchers in his state.

In/Out: "We've had one...at this point."

2. **Tough to Continue:** Many ranchers whose land has been scorched by wildfires will have a hard time staying in the cattle business, according to New Mexico Farm Bureau President Mike White.

In/Out: "It will be tough...into production again."

3. **High Prices Mean zilch With No Crop:** New Mexico Mike White talks about the losses most farmers will see in their crops this season due to drought.

In/Out: "Alfalfa, we're probably off...losses that we have."

4. **Raging Fires:** Unless you've lived through it, you can't imagine what it's like to see a wildfire raging across drought-stricken land. NM Farm Bureau President Mike White describes the results.

In/Out: "When you have fire racing...put them up."

5. **Yearly Risk:** NM Farm Bureau President Mike White talks about the constant threat the weather hangs over the nation's farmers and ranchers.

In/Out: "You have people in...some people think."

### **Dean Norton – New York Farm Bureau President**

1. **A Hurricane in New York??:** New York Farm Bureau President Dean Norton describes the devastation left after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee swept through his state.

In/Out: "The farmers that you talk to...on their feet again."

2. **Feed Tough to Find:** Many of the crops meant to feed New York's dairy cows were destroyed by torrential rains and flooding. New York Farm Bureau President Dean Norton explains how the organization is trying to help farmers cope.

In/Out: "A lot of our...through the winter."

3. **Pumpkins Pounded:** New York is #1 in ornamental pumpkin production, but NY Farm Bureau President Dean Norton says bad weather haunted this year's crop.

In/Out: "New York is actually...pumpkin market absolutely."

### **Carl Shaffer - Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President**

1. **Pennsylvania Disaster Situation:** Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer explains the unusual weather disasters that hit farmers in his state.

In/out: "I've never seen...total flood situation."

2. **Too Dry, Then Too Wet:** - Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer talks about the range of weather problems he had with one of his own crops.

In/Out: "One crop I grow...in one week."

3. **Harmful Flooding in PA:** Extreme flooding destroyed complete crops for some Pennsylvania vegetable farmers, according to PA Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer.

In/Out: "Some folks lost...just destroyed everything."

4. **Infrastructure Destruction:** Rural areas will spend a long time recovering from the devastation left from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, says Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer.

In/Out: "In a lot of areas...all over the place."

### **Kenneth Dierschke - President, Texas Farm Bureau**

1. **Scorched Earth:** Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke describes the severe drought that has left much of Texas parched.

In/Out: "Mother Nature's thrown...all of Texas."

2. **Devastating Wildfires:** Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke talks about the devastating combination of drought and wildfires for the state's ranchers.

In/Out: "The combination with...to our ranchers."

3. **Empty Cotton Fields:** The weather has been too dry for much of the state's cotton crop to even sprout, according to Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke.

In/Out: "There's miles and miles...just really terrible."

4. **No Irrigation Means No Crop:** Only crops with decent irrigation had a chance this year throughout most of Texas, explains Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke.

In/Out: "The dryland cotton...a disaster this year."

5. **Long Road to Recovery:** Texas Farm Bureau President Kenneth Dierschke says the extent of the drought throughout Texas means that it could take years for the state to get back to normal.

In/Out: "I heard the other...be unsustainable."

### **Wayne Pryor - Virginia Farm Bureau President**

1. **Crazy Weather Year:** Variety isn't such a good thing when it comes to weather disasters, according to Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne Pryor.

In/Out: "I think we've...get this year."

2. **Hurricane Damages:** Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne Pryor describes how farmers were affected by Hurricane Irene.

In/Out: "The hurricane damaged...can be harvested."

3. **Down the River:** Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne Pryor says he can empathize with farmers throughout the nation who are hit by a hurricane.

In/Out: "Well, as a farmer...down the river."