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Independent Cattlemen's Association Urges Texas Governor to Request Federal Agricultural Disaster Declaration

Lockhart, Texas – January 19, 2006 – For Immediate Release – The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, a grassroots organization of cow/calf producers, has called upon Texas Governor Rick Perry to request a Presidential Declaration from President George Bush designating Texas as a Federal Agricultural Disaster Area due to the current drought conditions statewide.

ICA officials noted that many ranchers are facing the same drought-stricken pasture conditions that impacted the industry in 1995 and 1996.

“The price of hay has doubled as ranchers scramble to supplement the grazing erased by drought, high winds and wildfires,” said Bruce Dopslauf, State ICA President. “Cow/calf producers are facing increasingly higher transportation costs and a dwindling supply of adequate forage.”

A request from Governor Perry is the first step in making federal assistance available to ranchers and farmers during a weather-related crisis such as a drought. ICA also urged Perry to work with Texas' Congressional delegation to support the enactment and funding of the Livestock Indemnity Program and the Livestock Assistance Program.

“We realize a unified effort will be required by our elected representatives to authorize and appropriate the needed programs and that the request for a Presidential Declaration is only the first step,” said Dopslauf.

The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas represents land and cattle owners on legislative and regulatory issues of importance to the cattle industry and agribusiness. For more information, contact ICA at 512.620.0162 or visit www.icatexas.com.