

File 530



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 62225-5001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: PA

SUBJECT: Operation H

TO: See Distrib

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2. Attach
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example of getting the good news
Balance program.

3. We all need to continually search out and promote positive
Air Force stories. Your continued support is appreciated.

RICHARD L. FULLER, Colonel, USAF.
Director of Public Affairs

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News Clips

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REPLY TO
ATTN OF PA

OCT 14 1986

SUBJECT: Operation Haylift

TO See Distribution List

1. Operation Haylift, the airlift of hay to the drought-stricken Southeast, provided several of our wings the chance to get good, positive news coverage. Once again, our wing PAO's took the bull by the horn, so to speak, and the results were exceptional.

2. Attached is a copy of Operation Haylift news clips. The booklet contains a representative sample of news clippings that appeared in papers throughout the country. This is an excellent example of getting the good news out under SAF/PA's Project Balance program.

3. We all need to continually search out and promote positive Air Force stories. Your continued support is appreciated.

RICHARD L. FULLER, Colonel, USAF.
Director of Public Affairs

1 Atch
News Clips



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**OPERATION
HAYLIFT**

NEWSCLIPS

Hay mission finally takes flight

3 C-130s loaded for trip to drought-ravaged Georgia

By STEVE SCHULTZE
of The Journal staff

Camp Douglas, Wis. — Five hundred bales of hay weighing 10 tons were loaded onto each of three C-130 cargo planes here Thursday for shipment to drought-stricken farms in Georgia.

The first of the military transport planes was scheduled to leave Volk Field here at midday, and the two others were to follow at one-hour intervals.

The planes were to land at Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Ga., just northwest of Atlanta.

The mission, approved by President Reagan on Wednesday, is being conducted by Milwaukee's 440th Tactical Airlift Wing as part of a training exercise, Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.) and Ronald McCrea, Gov. Earl's press secretary, said in interviews.

The hay being shipped by the Air Force Reserve unit is just a small part of 45,000 bales donated by Wisconsin farmers, but

McCrea said the airlift would serve an important need.

"It's not that much, frankly," McCrea said. But he added: "If [1,500] bales keep livestock alive a couple of days, that's worth something."

Additional flights are not likely, he said. The remainder of the donated hay is to be shipped by truck and rail.

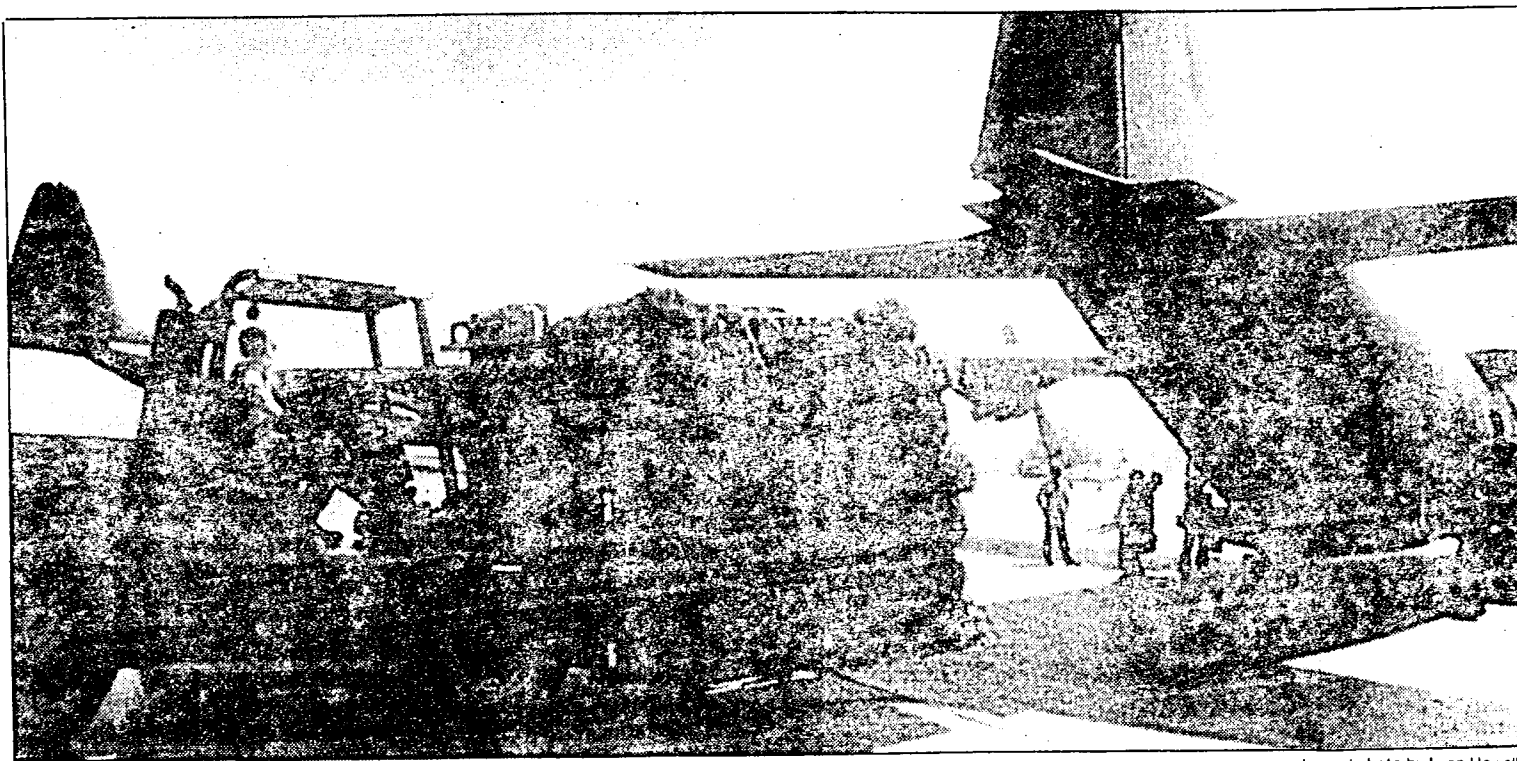
The military flights were announced late Wednesday by both Kasten and Earl.

"I am pleased we have been able to turn this into a positive situation," Kasten

said. He called the airlift a coordinated effort by state and federal officials.

The first flight left Mitchell Airport in Milwaukee Thursday morning to pick up hay at Volk Field at Camp Douglas, which is near Tomah.

Georgia prisoners were expected to unload the hay in Marietta, where it will be taken to a farmers' market for distribution.



Journal photo by Lynn Howell

Wisconsin hay bound for drought-stricken farms in Georgia was loaded onto a C-130 cargo plane Thursday at Volk Field

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
25 JULY
P 3A

THE STAR-LEDGER, Thursday, July 24, 1986
MILWAUKEE WISC.

Dixie farmers line up in Atlanta for free hay flown from Midwest

By the Associated Press

Farmers drove 100 miles and lined up overnight yesterday in Georgia for a chance at free hay to feed cattle starving in a drought that has cost farmers in the Southeast an estimated \$1.5 billion and forced water conservation measures.

Although temperatures have temporarily eased in the region after 2½ weeks of 100-degree highs, the death toll since July 1 rose to 42.

Georgia cattlemen lined up yesterday at the Atlanta Farmers Market for a share of 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers and flown in by Air Force cargo jets.

"This is our only chance to keep our cattle alive," said Sara Dockery of Royston, who drove 100 miles. "This means the cows will survive for five more days," said her husband, Franklin.

The first farmer in line was Dale Banford, of Winder, who said he arrived Tuesday night. He said he has had to feed his 60 beef cattle apples and stale bread, and they ate leaves off trees blown down in a storm last week. "This is a short start, but it's a start," he said.

Banford was among about 40 farmers who got up to 50 bales each. Twenty-five others were turned away when the hay ran out after four hours, and some of them left their trailers behind so they would be at the head of the line tomorrow, when more free hay is to be distributed.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin estimated that in his state alone, farmers will need 2 million tons of hay to feed their cattle through spring.

Clouds and scattered rain kept the Southeast below 100 degrees for a second consecutive day. But Macon, Ga.,

came close with a high of 98. Columbia, S.C., reached only 96 yesterday and 97 Tuesday, ending a record string of 15 days of triple-digit temperatures.

But highs could be over 100 again next week, said Charlotte Camp of the National Weather Service in Columbia.

Scattered thunderstorms developed Tuesday from Maryland to Florida, dumping more than 3 inches of rain on Valdosta, Ga., within six hours.

But the rain is too late for some crops. "Soybeans could improve some if there is rain, but it's certainly too late for crops such as corn," said Henry Power with the South Carolina Crop Reporting Service.

Tennessee is faring better than neighboring states, but it is still 15 inches below normal rainfall for the year. Only 10 percent of its pastures are listed in good condition and farmers are selling some cattle to conserve feed, state officials said.



The Associated Press

President Reagan boosts the campaigns of South Carolina gubernatorial candidate Carroll Campbell (left) and Tommy Hartnett, candidate for lieutenant governor, in Columbia on Thursday.

Reagan promises farm drought aid

White House 'stands ready to help,' he tells S.C. audience at fund-raiser

By Ron Martz
Staff Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Parched Southern farmers, many of whom are facing economic disaster as a result of the region's worst drought in more than a century, soon will be offered federal emergency assistance, President Reagan said in a speech here Thursday.

About two hours after Reagan spoke, Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng announced in Washington that a special drought task force would help speed federal aid to the region and that several existing programs would be tailored to help farmers recover from economic losses. No major new spending programs were unveiled.

"The drought is reaching tragic proportions — one of the worst in the century — and I want you to know that our administration stands ready to help," Reagan told a supportive but restrained crowd of about 1,200 people at the Carolina Coliseum.

"I've sent a federal team to South Carolina, and other states, to assess the situation," he said.

Earlier in the day, Reagan met with two South Carolina farmers, Jack Burnside of Columbia and Morris Hart of Norway, as they waited for a shipment of hay from Illinois to be unloaded from an Air Force C-141 jet at the Columbia Metro Airport.

"On the faces of those South Carolina farmers, what dignity, what determination to stick it out until better days," said Reagan.

Reagan praised farmers across the country for coming to the aid of Southern farmers by donating excess forage for starving livestock.

"Americans are together again, helping each other as we used to," said Reagan.

Four planeloads of surplus hay from the Midwest arrived in South Carolina on Thursday, bringing to 15 the total number of shipments flown into the state in

the last five days. A 200-car train with 2,000 tons of Indiana hay is expected in South Carolina next week, while other Midwestern states have promised additional shipments that will total more than 2,000 tons.

Reagan's 2½-hour stop in Columbia was the last in a two-day fund-raising swing through the South. The president made stops in Texas and Florida on Wednesday to raise money for Republican candidates in the November elections.

Reagan met with about 200 people, who paid \$1,000 each, at a private reception at the coliseum before speaking to the 1,200 luncheon guests. The event was expected to raise in excess of \$300,000 for the gubernatorial campaign of U.S. Rep. Carroll Campbell (R-S.C.), who is running against Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Mike Daniel. Republicans here hope Reagan's popularity in this conservative state (he won 64 percent of the vote in the 1984 election) will help other party candidates.

"This is pure Ronald Reagan country," Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) said in his introduction of Reagan.

Thurmond also said Reagan's popularity with the voters easily could win him a third term, even though there is a constitutional prohibition against it. It was the second time in as many days that the subject had been broached.

"If the people had their way, they would amend the Constitution and give him a third term so that the next president of the United States will still be Ronald Reagan," said Thurmond.

Reagan first mentioned the idea of a third term during his stop in Florida on Wednesday. But on Thursday, he made no mention of it.

In his 25-minute speech, which originally was scheduled to run only 10 minutes, Reagan stressed patriotism, South Carolina's long-term commitment to the military, Reaganomics and his efforts at tax reform.

O'Fallon Progress
 Thursday, July 24, 1986
 page 3

Air Force to the rescue

To aid drought-stricken Southeastern United States, the Air Force has lent a helping hand by airlifting bales of hay to farmers in South Carolina.

Responding to a request by Gov. Jim Thompson to expedite transporting bales of hay to the Southeast, President Reagan ordered transport planes to airlift the hay.

The attempt to help save starving cattle has so far resulted in five shipments of hay, or approximately 4,000 bales of hay, Air Force officials say.

The deliveries began Saturday

when two Military Airlift Command C-141 Starlifters sent 1,600 bales of Illinois hay to the Greenville-Spartanburg area of South Carolina. The aircraft were sent to Illinois from McGuire AFB, N.J., and Charleston AFB, S.C.

Thompson said, "The spirit of the Illinois farmer is as strong and generous as ever. Whole communities have come forward, loading hay through the night so it would be ready for this airlift."

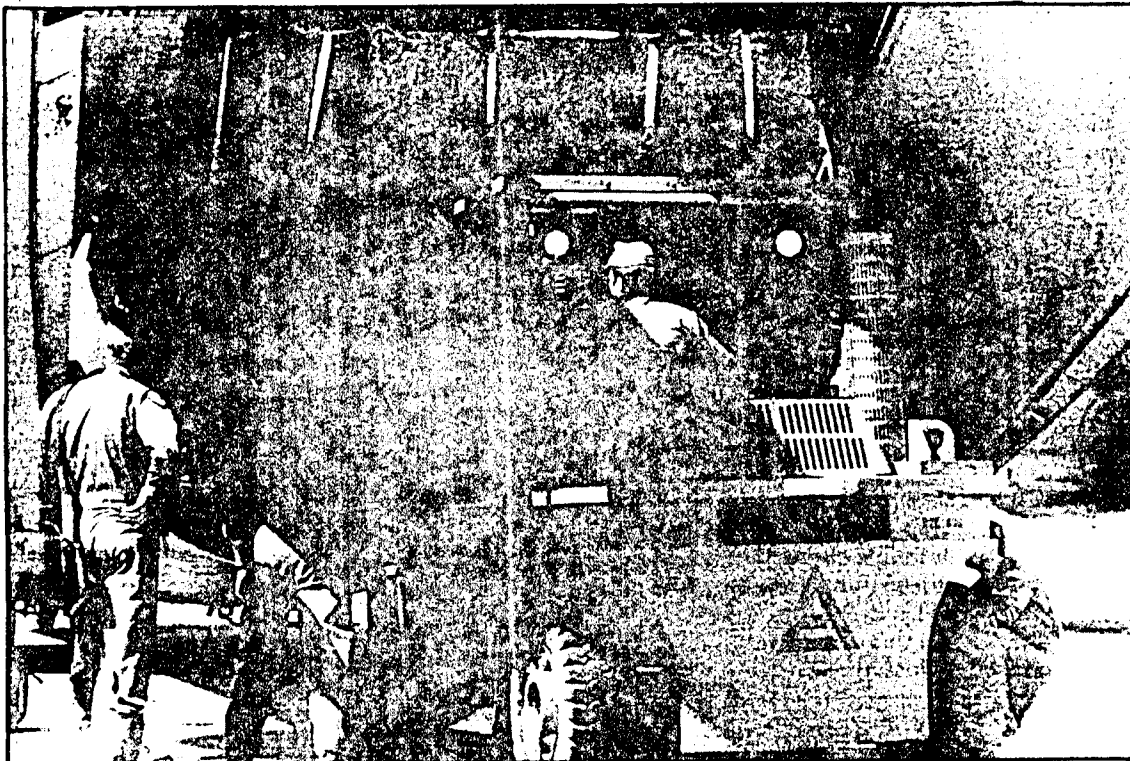
Officials at Scott AFB said more airlifts are expected later in the week.

South Carolina has been hardest

hit by the drought and farmers there are either out of hay or operating at dangerously low levels, endangering beef and dairy herds, said Thompson.

"When I asked Illinois farmers just a few days ago to donate or sell their hay to help out the farmers struggling in the Southeast," said Thompson, "I knew they would respond quickly and generously. They always have and I expect they always will."

"For more than one hundred years, Illinois farmers have helped their neighbors get through the bad times."



Air Force personnel load a pallet of hay aboard a Military Airlift Command C-141 Starlifter aircraft. Members of the Military Airlift Command, Illinois Air and Army National Guard loaded 1,664 bails of hay on two C-141 aircraft destined for the drought-

stricken Greenville, S.C., area. The hay was donated by Illinois farmers to assist South Carolina farmers whose cattle were starving because the heat and drought had killed local feed crops. (Photo by TSgt. Richard Brooks)

Reagan OKs airlift of state hay to South

By STEVE SCHULTZE
Journal Madison bureau

Madison, Wis. — President Reagan on Wednesday approved the use of Air Force Reserve cargo planes for the airlift of Wisconsin hay to farmers in the South, Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.) announced.

Two C-130 planes and crews from Milwaukee's 440th Tactical Airlift Wing at Mitchell Airport were ready to make the first flights Wednesday as soon as official word was received, said Gary Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the Reserve unit.

No details on the number of flights authorized or where the first hay pickups would be made was immediately available.

About 8,000 bales of hay were donated by farmers in the Reedsburg area and about 3,000 were loaded on trucks late Tuesday. The first load left Reedsburg by truck Tuesday night and three more loads left early Wednesday.

Kasten's announcement was made a day after Gov. Earl and Democratic Wisconsin congressmen tried in vain to get White House approval for the military cargo planes.

Please see Hay, Page 10A

Hay

From Page 1

"I am delighted that we were able to turn this decision around," Kasten said in a prepared statement.

Earl aides and others questioned whether White House reluctance to approve the mission Tuesday at Earl's request had been politically motivated. But Kasten spokesman Jim Sims said he doubted that.

"We pushed on this and we got results," he said.

Four truckloads of donated hay from the Reedsburg area were rolling toward drought-plagued Georgia Wednesday after the airlift failed to get off the ground Tuesday.

"There was a lot of frustration and disappointment out here" when a promised Air Force Reserve cargo plane failed to appear, said William Schorer, president of Reedsburg Foods.

Five more truck runs had been arranged, but after Kasten's announcement it was not clear how many trucks would be needed. Four companies — Reedsburg Foods, Skinner Transfer, Bernien Implement and Wisconsin Metal Products — had agreed to pick up the tab for trucking costs.

When it appeared Tuesday that the airlift would not be approved, one of the organizers of the Reedsburg hay donation said he had had it with government involvement.

"I knew it was too good to be true," said David Retzlaff, manager of Bernien Implement Co. in Reedsburg.

"Right away it was their idea," Retzlaff scoffed, speaking of Earl and his staff. "I wish I'd have left them out of it."

"People were kind of mad and heartbroken and upset," Retzlaff said.

Shipping the hay by air will be vastly more expensive than trucking it. A round trip to Georgia on a C-130 cargo plane would cost \$14,400, according to Gary Fitzgerald, public affairs director of the Milwaukee-based 440th. The C-130 would hold about a semi-trailer truckload of hay, about 700 bales.

Trucking the hay out of Reedsburg from Reedsburg Foods is costing about \$1,000 a load, said William Schorer, company president.

Retzlaff said he had arranged for the hay to be sent to Forest Park, Ga., after contacting Georgia's secretary of agriculture.

White House officials had balked Tuesday at allowing Air Force planes to be used for the Wisconsin effort, saying four Midwestern states — Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri — already had received permission to use the planes, said Sherman Stock, an aide to Earl.

It was not clear what had changed the federal government's mind Wednesday.

But Stock said Wisconsin's request was different because the other states used active Air Force personnel and Wisconsin wanted to use reservists who would make the flights as part of a training exercise.

State haylift stalled over use of planes

By Rick Romell

The White House withheld approval Tuesday for Wisconsin's haylift to the drought-stricken Southeast while pledged donations from farmers mounted and several individuals stepped in to drive hay south themselves.

After a day filled with mixed signals and suspicion that a charitable effort was being used for political ends, aides to Democratic and Republican officials were optimistic that President Reagan would approve the state's request for military planes to haul hay.

Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.) said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the request would be approved.

Kasten said in a statement that he

had contacted Reagan and senior White House staff members late Tuesday and was "hopeful a decision will be made tomorrow morning to permit Wisconsin's participation in the airlift of hay to the South."

Ronald McCrea, Gov. Earl's communications secretary, also said the day's final signs from Washington were encouraging. But McCrea criticized the Reagan administration for balking after Wisconsin farmers in just a few days had pledged to give about 30,000 bales to help feed livestock in the Southeast.

"It was really unfortunate that a few coordinates couldn't come together," McCrea said. "It's the kind of day that gives politicians of all

Hay Turn to Page 10

State haylift stalled over use of planes

Hay From Page 1

stripes a bad name if it doesn't work out."

Earlier Tuesday, an aide to Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Reagan's staff was concerned about the cost of further airlifts — several have been undertaken from Illinois — and the distance involved.

The White House has similar requests from several other Midwestern states, and it appeared Reagan's staff may have hesitated after seeing the unexpectedly large volume of hay being offered. Midwestern farmers are cutting bumper crops of hay this year. Their offers to the Southeast may total several hundred thousand bales, one aide to Earl said.

But another aide noted that Reagan had been quick to OK the use of military planes requested by Illinois Republican Gov. James R. Thompson.

The C-141 airplanes being used in Illinois are larger and more costly to run than the C-130s requested by Wisconsin, said Gary Fitzgerald, public affairs director of the Air Force Reserve's 440th Tactical Airlift Wing, based at Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport.

Fitzgerald said he was unsure of the current cost of operating a C-130, but estimated it at about \$100,000 per hour in the air. Round-trip flight time to Atlanta, Ga., is about eight hours.

However, McCrea said Wisconsin's request would be to use the haylift as a substitute for scheduled Air Force Reserve training.

Because of the cost of airlifts, though, it appears unlikely that military planes will be used for any length of time. There was talk Tuesday of using trains, and several people here have taken it upon themselves to truck hay to the south.

Four trucks were to leave early

Wednesday from Reedsburg, where farmers expecting the airlift to begin had brought about 5,000 bales of hay to the airport, said David Retzlaff, a local farmer and implement firm manager who spearheaded the area's effort.

Retzlaff, 34, said the haylift had become a political football, and that he no longer cared whether or not Wisconsin got to use military planes.

"They can keep them as far as I'm concerned. . . I'm just fed up with the politicians," Retzlaff said.

Linda Jameson, Earl's assistant press secretary, said nine other truckers had been lined up to haul hay. Among them is A-1 Carrier Moving & Storage, of Madison, which is donating a moving van. Driver Donald Willis will donate his time to take the truck to South Carolina, A-1 office manager Sandy Neumaier said.

No matter what form of transportation is used, it would require a massive effort to meet the need even in just the hardest hit Southeastern states, Georgia and South Carolina.

A Georgia Agriculture Department spokeswoman estimated that 2 million tons of hay would be needed to keep that state's cattle fed through the winter. That's the equivalent of 80 million bales, or about 2,700 times the amount pledged so far from Wisconsin.

Officials have estimated that the 30,000 bales offered here so far would feed the cattle and horses in South Carolina for two days.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

Wednesday, July 23, 1988

Page 7

Georgia Farmers Get First Of Free Hay

The Associated Press

Farmers drove 100 miles and lined up Wednesday in Georgia for a chance at free hay to feed cattle starving in a drought that has cost farmers in the Southeast an estimated \$1.5 billion and forced water conservation measures.

Although temperatures have temporarily eased in the region after 2½ weeks of 100-degree highs, the death toll since July 1 rose to 42.

The cattlemen lined up at the Atlanta Farmers Market for a share of 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers and flown in by Air Force cargo jets.

"This is our only chance to keep our cattle alive," said Sara Dockery of Royston, who drove 100 miles. "This means the cows will survive for five more days," said her husband, Franklin.

The first farmer in line was Dale Banford of Winder, who said he arrived Tuesday night. He said he has had to feed his 60 beef cattle apples and stale bread, and

they ate leaves off trees blown down in a storm last week. "This is a short start, but it's a start," he said.

Banford was among about 40 farmers who got up to 50 bales each. Twenty-five others were turned away when the hay ran out after four hours, and some of them left their trailers behind so they would be at the head of the line Friday, when more free hay is to be distributed.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin estimated that in his state alone, farmers will need 2 million tons of hay to feed their cattle through spring.

Clouds and scattered rain kept the Southeast below 100 degrees for a second consecutive day. But Macon, Ga., came close with a high of 98. Columbia, S.C., reached only 96 Wednesday and 97 Tuesday, breaking a record string of 15 days of triple-digit temperatures.

But highs could be over 100 again next week, said Charlotte Camp of the National Weather Service in Columbia.

Scattered thunderstorms developed Tuesday from Maryland to Florida, dumping more than 3 inches of rain on Valdosta, Ga., within six hours.

But the rain is too late for some crops. "Soybeans could improve some if there is rain, but it's certainly too late for crops such as corn," said Henry Power with the South Carolina Crop Reporting Service.

Tennessee is faring better than neighboring states, but it is still 15 inches below normal rainfall for the year. Only 10 percent of its pastures are listed in good condition and farmers are selling some cattle to conserve feed, state officials said.

Jerry Schubert, a farmer in Loudon County, Tenn., sold two cows at an auction and said that if it stays dry he'll have to sell the rest of his herd "and find a job like a city-slicker."

In addition to the drought, the heat is killing poultry.

See HEAT, Page 3-A

From Page 1-A

Heat

About 610,000 broilers have died in Georgia in the last 12 days, said Abil Massey, executive director of the Georgia Poultry Federation. Georgia's \$6 billion poultry industry is losing about \$5 million a week, he said.

And at least 75 percent of the estimated 175 million pine seedlings planted in Alabama between December and April by commercial foresters, private landowners and the Forest Service are dying in the heat and drought, said Curt Griffiths, a U.S. Forest Service tree scientist.

More donated hay was on its way from the Midwest.

Four Air Force C-141 Starlifter cargo jets were loaded with 77 tons of hay Wednesday morning in Iowa and landed in the afternoon at the Donaldson Industrial Air Park outside Greenville, S.C.

"It's nice to be helping Americans for a change," said Staff Sgt. Alan Maun of McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Wash., one of the crewmen on the planes.

"They're farmers, we're farmers and we have to stick together and hope it does some good," said Farmer Dennis Knuth in Wisconsin, where Gov. Anthony Earl's staff said about 30,000 bales, or about

750 tons, had been donated as of late Tuesday.

"The heart of America is big," South Carolina Lt. Gov. Mike Daniel said Wednesday in Indiana, where farmers have donated 1,800 tons, which Indiana Lt. Gov. John Mutz valued at \$80 a ton.

A 43-truck Ohio National Guard convoy loaded with donated hay will get out Aug. 2 for Ft. Bragg, N.C., Gov. Richard Celeste announced Wednesday. Agriculture Director Steven D. Maurer said Ohio farmers had donated more than 4,000 tons, about 124,000 bales, and contributions were still being offered.

Two plane loads of Missouri hay were ready for shipment Wednesday

and more is available. "We could load five railroad cars tomorrow," said Susan Barnes of the National Organization for Raw Materials, a farm marketing agency.

In Illinois, thousands of bales of hay were loaded on railroad cars while volunteers prepared additional truck and air shipments.

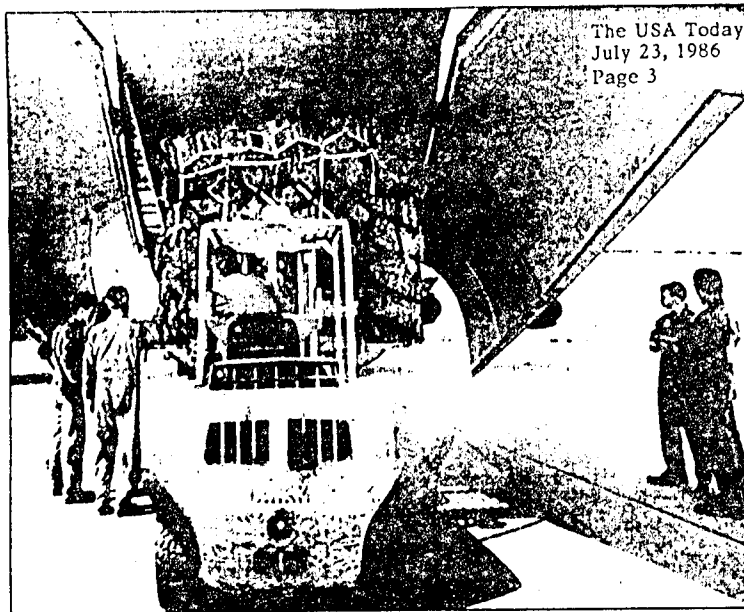
"This will go on as long as there is a need or as long as we can meet the need," said spokesman Mark Randal of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Lee Webster of Webster Trucking Co. in Donovan, Ill., said he would offer the services of some of his drivers to deliver donated hay far from their normal routes.

Fayetteville Times

JULY 24

A 1



The USA Today
July 23, 1986
Page 3

ILLINOIS LARGEST: Air Force personnel in Rockford, Ill., load hay into a C-141 for the flight south.
By Wendy Visser, USA TODAY

Haylifts: Lofty form of farm aid

By Florestine Purnell
and Desda Moss
USA TODAY

ROCKFORD, Ill. — Illinois farmers sent three plane-loads of hay to Georgia and South Carolina Tuesday as the flow of help for draught-stricken Southern farmers increased.

"It's great to be able to do this for some needy people," said Leona Nelson of Mount Morris, who contributed 250 bales to the 3,000 bales carried by three Air Force C-141 transport planes.

Two planes carrying about

40 tons of hay went to Georgia, where the hay will be distributed today to farmers who face losing their herds because they have no feed for them.

"This 40 tons is mostly symbolic, a stopgap measure," said Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin. "But that draws national attention to our plight."

More help for Southern farmers is on the way.

■ By the end of the week, more than 200 tons of hay will be shipped south from the Midwest, where rain has given farmers a bumper hay crop.

■ President Reagan Thursday is scheduled to meet an Air Force C-141 when it brings 1,600 bales of hay from Springfield, Ill., to Columbia, S.C.

There were also more calls for help: Alabama Gov. George Wallace sent Reagan telegrams calling for quick release of surplus feed to farmers. Florida officials said Panhandle cattlemen can't keep their herds through the winter without feed shipments.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Thursday, July 24, 1986

page 12A

Southern Farmers Lining Up For Hay Aid

Compiled From News Services

Farmers drove 100 miles and lined up overnight in Georgia for a chance Wednesday at free hay from Illinois to feed cattle starving in a drought. The hot, dry weather is estimated to have cost farmers in the Southeast \$1.5 billion and forced water conservation measures.

Hay donated by Missouri farmers was being flown to South Carolina.

Although the weather has eased in the region after 2½ weeks of 100-degree highs, the total of deaths attributed to the heat since July 1 rose to 42.

Georgia cattlemen lined up at the Atlanta Farmers Market for a share of 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers and flown in by Air Force cargo planes.

"This is our only chance to keep our cattle alive," said Sara Dockery of Royston, who drove 100 miles. "This means the cows will survive for five more days," said her husband, Franklin.

The first farmer in line was Dale Banford, of Winder, who said he had arrived Tuesday night. He said he had been feeding his 60 beef cattle apples and stale bread, and that they had eaten leaves off trees blown down in a storm last week. "This is a short start, but it's a start," he said.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin estimated that in his state alone, farmers would need 2 million tons of hay to feed their cattle through spring.

About 1,800 bales of hay were flown from Missouri to South Carolina on Wednesday.

The hay was donated by several farmers near Diamond and Ava, in southwestern Missouri, said Mike Kraemer, public information officer with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Volunteers collected the hay and took it to the Springfield Regional Airport, where the bales were loaded onto two C-141 transport planes from South Carolina.

Farm activists and state officials have been trying to arrange transportation for more hay lifts.

Three Air Force C-141 Starlifter jets were loaded with 3,600 bales Wednesday at Des Moines, Iowa, to be flown to Greenville, S.C. Another plane was loaded at Cedar Rapids.

A 43-truck Ohio National Guard

convoy loaded with donated hay will set out Aug. 2 for Fort Bragg, N.C., Gov. Richard Celeste announced Wednesday.

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In addition to the drought, the heat is killing poultry. About 610,000 broilers have died in Georgia in the last 12 days, said Abil Massey, executive director of the Georgia Poultry Federation. Georgia's \$6 billion poultry industry is losing about \$5 million a week, he said.

And at least 75 percent of the estimated 175 million pine seedlings planted in Alabama between December and April by commercial foresters, private landowners and the Forest Service are dying, said Curt Griffiths, a U.S. Forest Service tree scientist.

Some experts say \$400 million of North Carolina's \$4 billion annual farm income may already be lost. South Carolina agriculture officials estimated losses at \$100 million; Virginia, \$61.5 million; Georgia, \$182.5 million.

Maryland Gov. Harry Hughes estimated crop losses at \$89 million and said they could reach \$100 million. Delaware and Florida officials said no figures were available Wednesday.

John Trotman, director of Alabama's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, estimated crop and livestock losses at \$750 million.

Southern Farmers Lining Up For Hay Aid

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Thursday, July 24, 1986

page 12A

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Sunday, July 20, 1986

page 13A

Hay Is For Horses And, Thanks To Illinois, For S. Carolina Cows

Compiled From News Services

Dozens of farmers in Greenville, S.C., lined up with trucks and trailers on Saturday to collect 100 tons of free hay from Illinois.

The hay was flown to the area by the Air Force and unloaded with forklifts, then moved to another area of the runway for distribution. The hay was donated by Illinois growers to help South Carolina farmers feed their cattle. The South Carolina hay crop was damaged by drought.

Elsewhere, thunderstorms in southwest New York sent water surging over a dam. Roads were flooded and residents fled to higher ground.

Two C-141 Starlifter planes arrived

in South Carolina, each carrying 50 tons of hay. The cargo arrived from Springfield, Ill., in a move ordered by President Ronald Reagan.

The farmers were lined up for the hay hours before the planes arrived. Most of the hay, no more than 65 bales to a farmer, was allocated to qualified farmers in the first hour, officials said.

"It's really just enough hay to carry them over for a week," said Greenville Extension Service chairman Henry Jones.

South Carolina Gov. Dick Riley brought the plight of the Southern farmers to public attention last week. Illinois Gov. James Thompson volun-

Most of the hay, no more than 65 bales to a farmer, was allocated to qualified farmers in the first hour, officials said.

teered to ship the hay, which is selling for about \$200 a bale in South Carolina. Reagan ordered the Air Force to make the shipments when officials realized that it would take too long to send the hay by train.

Thompson rolled up his sleeves to help load the hay in the planes Saturday. More hay will be sent next week. Blistering heat hit the two-week mark for the Southeast on Saturday,

which broiled under 100-degree temperatures again. Augusta, Ga., and Columbia, Ga., both reached 103 degrees by mid-afternoon and Oklahoma City, Okla., reached 100 degrees for the first time this year.

But a cold front plaguing the Midwest with tornadoes and locally heavy rain could bring some relief next week, said meteorologist Bill Barlow.

during the Southern heat wave, which stretches into the Midwest.

Heavy storms ripped the Pennsylvania-New York border late Friday and early Saturday, where up to 6 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period in the Chautauqua County, N.Y., town of Sherman.

The storms sparked spectacular lightning and sent rain pouring over the Panama Dam, about 10 miles west of Jamestown, N.Y., flooding roads and chasing an undetermined number of residents from their homes.

More heavy thunderstorms were possible across the area during the day and into the night.

Compiled From News Services

Farmers drove 100 miles and lined up overnight in Georgia for a chance Wednesday at free hay from Illinois to feed cattle starving in a drought. The hot, dry weather is estimated to have cost farmers in the Southeast \$1.5 billion and forced water conservation measures.

Hay donated by Missouri farmers was being flown to South Carolina.

Although the weather has eased in the region after 2½ weeks of 100-degree highs, the total of deaths attributed to the heat since July 1 rose to 42.

Georgia cattlemen lined up at the Atlanta Farmers Market for a share of 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers and flown in by Air Force cargo planes.

"This is our only chance to keep our cattle alive," said Sara Dockery of Royston, who drove 100 miles. "This means the cows will survive for five more days," said her husband, Franklin.

The first farmer in line was Dale Banford, of Winder, who said he had arrived Tuesday night. He said he had been feeding his 60 beef cattle apples and stale bread, and that they had eaten leaves off trees blown down in a storm last week. "This is a short start, but it's a start," he said.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin estimated that in his state alone, farmers would need 2 million tons of hay to feed their cattle through spring.

About 1,800 bales of hay were flown from Missouri to South Carolina on Wednesday.

The hay was donated by several farmers near Diamond and Ava, in southwestern Missouri, said Mike Kraemer, public information officer with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Volunteers collected the hay and took it to the Springfield Regional Airport, where the bales were loaded onto two C-141 transport planes from South Carolina.

Farm activists and state officials have been trying to arrange transportation for more hay lifts.

Three Air Force C-141 Starlifter jets were loaded with 3,600 bales Wednesday at Des Moines, Iowa, to be flown to Greenville, S.C. Another plane was loaded at Cedar Rapids.

A 43-truck Ohio National Guard

convoy loaded with donated hay will set out Aug. 2 for Fort Bragg, N.C., Gov. Richard Celeste announced Wednesday.

Clouds and scattered rain kept the Southeast below 100 degrees for a second consecutive day. But Macon, Ga., came close with a high of 98. Columbia, S.C., reached only 96 Wednesday and 97 Tuesday, breaking a record string of 15 days of triple-digit temperatures.

Scattered thunderstorms developed Tuesday from Maryland to Florida, dumping more than 3 inches of rain on Valdosta, Ga., within six hours.

But the rain is too late for some crops.

"Soybeans could improve some if there is rain, but it's certainly too late for crops such as corn," said Henry Power with the South Carolina Crop Reporting Service.

Tennessee is faring better than neighboring states, but its rainfall remains 15 inches below normal for the year. Only 10 percent of its pastures are listed in good condition, and farmers are selling some cattle to conserve feed, state officials said.

In addition to the drought, the heat is killing poultry. About 610,000 broilers have died in Georgia in the last 12 days, said Abit Massey, executive director of the Georgia Poultry Federation. Georgia's \$6 billion poultry industry is losing about \$5 million a week, he said.

And at least 75 percent of the estimated 175 million pine seedlings planted in Alabama between December and April by commercial foresters, private landowners and the Forest Service are dying, said Curt Griffiths, a U.S. Forest Service tree scientist.

Some experts say \$400 million of North Carolina's \$4 billion annual farm income may already be lost. South Carolina agriculture officials estimated losses at \$100 million; Virginia, \$61.5 million; Georgia, \$182.5 million.

Maryland Gov. Harry Hughes estimated crop losses at \$89 million and said they could reach \$100 million. Delaware and Florida officials said no figures were available Wednesday.

John Trotman, director of Alabama's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, estimated crop and livestock losses at \$750 million.

Cheers greet Illinois hay

By BILL HUGHES
and SARAH OKESON
State Staff Writers

GREENVILLE

Air Force transport planes unloaded the first shipments of freshly cut Illinois hay at Donaldson Center in Greenville on Saturday as a huge relief effort to help drought-stricken South Carolina farmers continued to take shape.

A cheer went up from some of the growers, who lined their trucks along the broiling hot tarmac to await a C-141 that touched down at 3:05 p.m. carrying 42 tons of high quality alfalfa.

Gov. Dick Riley, U.S. Rep. Carroll A. Campbell Jr. and Agriculture Commissioner Les Tindal were among officials greeting the plane, one of two that arrived Sat-

urday with 1,794 bales of hay from Springfield, Ill. Along with the hay was a letter from Illinois Gov. Jack Thompson to Riley.

Thompson wrote: "Here's 2,000 bales of help from the heart of Illinois — more is on the way. Three years ago we went through the tragedy of drought you're now suffering. Hope this helps."

The governor was handed the letter as a crowd of several hundred surged toward the aircraft shortly after it landed. Official ceremonies to accept the shipment were abandoned.

Illinois joins effort to send feed to drought-stricken South

By MARK MOORE
News-Democrat

Georgia officials are asking Illinois farmers to send hay to help replace livestock feed lost in one of the worst droughts in decades.

And Belleville will be among the communities set up as collection points, an Illinois Department of Agriculture spokeswoman said Monday.

Weeks of withering heat in Georgia, the

Carolinas and other Southern states have devastated pastures and feed-grass, starving livestock and forcing farmers to market the animals.

Hay was airlifted Saturday and again Monday from Springfield to South Carolina. Now efforts are under way to ship 80 carloads of hay by rail from Illinois to Atlanta, said Sally Bender, the Agriculture Department spokeswoman.

"We're taking many calls from farmers

offering to donate or sell their hay for \$50 per ton," she said.

The Air Force plans to continue its airlift of hay today to South Carolina. Bender said two C-141 cargo planes will make another trip today and two more later this week.

The cargo of nearly 2,000 bales of hay on Monday was the second shipped to South Carolina since Gov. James R. Thompson urged Illinois farmers to join in the relief effort.

Georgia Department of Agriculture is underwriting a program to have hay shipped on the Seaboard Rail Line to Atlanta. Seaboard is donating 80 boxcars and the cost of shipment to Atlanta, Bender said.

"A good deal of the hay has been donated, but many farmers are selling the hay," she said.

The price being offered is \$50 per ton for hay

See HAY/6B

Continued from 4B

that is at least 12 percent protein, dry and free of mold and noxious weeds, said Mike Hardimon, St. Clair County Extension adviser.

"I've been contacting area farmers to see if they have any hay for sale that matches the requirements that the state has given," Hardimon said.

Boxcars loaded with hay are expected to leave Belleville by the end of the week. Time and date of the departure have not been determined, Bender said.

"We will have a number of collection points throughout the state," she said. "We're hoping that we can get most of the details nailed down so we can load the train by the end of the week."

John Underwood, owner of Underwood Farms in Fairview Heights, said the train shipment still is in the preliminary stages.

"Basically, we offer the hay and the

departments of agriculture work out who is going to buy it," he said.

"The main cost — transportation — is being donated, so we can sell hay for a reduced rate," he said.

Underwood said he plans to sell some of his hay to Georgia farmers.

A hotline has been set up to take calls from farmers willing to donate or sell hay. The number is 1-800-225-7843. It will be in service

from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for about two weeks, Bender said.

"It's been real busy," she said. "The response has been overwhelming for donations of hay and services. We've had calls from drivers and truckers donating their services."

Another 80-car trainload is being planned for next week for drought-stricken South Carolina.

Belleville News-Democrat

Tuesday, July 22, 1986

pages 4 & 6B

Cow feed aid only a needle in the haystack

ATLANTA—Since 95 percent of us don't farm for a living, we have all kinds of misconceptions about the hay being brought in to feed beef and dairy cows.

The biggest is the widespread belief among urbanites that the 40 tons distributed Wednesday and the 80 or so more tons given away Friday will make more than a tad of difference.

Skip Caray, the most colorful of the poor souls who broadcast Atlanta Braves games on WTBS, is a rotund example — not of a cow or a bale of hay, but of a person who doesn't have the slightest understanding of farming.

Last Wednesday, Caray made a statement on a telecast — well-meaning, I'm sure — thanking the farmers in Illinois for donating hay that was flown to Georgia by the Air Force.

"You've saved a lot of farmers from bankruptcy," Caray intoned.

That was a laughable statement if you know anything about farming and the details of the hay distribution last week.

Number one, 40 tons sounds like a lot of hay. But it is not. Hay is heavy and bulky roughage. During a year with decent rainfall, a single beef producer with 100 head of cattle would try to store more than twice that amount in his barns.

Number two, there are about 1.7 million cows in Georgia, according to Mike Darnell of the Georgia Cattlemen's Association. He estimates that it would take 2 million tons of hay to feed those cattle for a year. That's a worst-case scenario, with no grass

David
Lundy



being available in the fields because of extended drought.

You can see what a pittance that few hundred tons is compared with the possible need for a couple of million.

Number three, each farmer who certified the need for the hay was limited to no more than 50 bales. That's about a ton and a half if the bales average 50 pounds. Stretching it, a farmer with 100 cattle to feed could make it last three or four days.

Number four, about 41 farmers got hay from the 40 tons, many qualifying for less than the 50-bale limit. There are thousands of beef cattle farmers and some 700 dairy farmers in the state.

No one on the brink of bankruptcy was saved from that fate last week. That brings up the fifth point. Fortunately, many cattle farmers are in better financial shape than row-crop farmers, who have been buffeted for about eight years in a row. Some of the rigs at the hay giveaway Wednesday were owned by people who are not poor.

A hungry cow is a hungry cow, whether it's owned

by a millionaire or a pauper.

The hay giveaway is mostly symbolic, although a few cows are enjoying munching on symbolism for a day or two. More than anything, it is a media event that gives the impression government officials are doing something in this time of need. The program of providing free and reduced-cost hay will continue as the need persists. Unfortunately, it appears that the drought of 1986 will hurt Georgia agriculture for the next 12 or 18 months.

The hay is appreciated. After all, how many other private enterprises would receive free ingredients if there was a shortage of something their businesses needed?

Under the best of circumstances, the hay will tide cattle farmers over for a few days, allowing them to hold off from selling. Who knows, heavy rains from a hurricane could come within the next two or three weeks and revive dormant fields.

Meanwhile, legislators from areas of the state far south of Atlanta are calling and writing Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin, lobbying for some shipments of hay deeper into the state. You've got to be able to get a large quantity of hay to make a 200-mile or more round trip worth it.

Look for train shipments into South Georgia within the next few weeks when larger volumes are available.

David Lundy is chief of the Macon Telegraph and News Atlanta bureau.

MACON (GA) TELEGRAPH AND NEWS, 27 JUL 86, P.4C

Fayetteville Times

JULY 25 P.1

N.C. Farmers Welcome Hay To Charlotte

More On Drought, 10-A And 1-B

The Associated Press

Drought-stricken North Carolina farmers grabbed handfuls of alfalfa and eagerly sniffed the aroma after an Air Force jet bearing more than 800 bales of

hay from Illinois landed in Charlotte Thursday.

"That's a little bit stinky, but it's got a good smell to it," said Jim Miller, a Pineville beef farmer.

"Grabbing another handful from deep inside the bale, he said, "That's what we

need. It's got good color and a good aroma to it."

The Air Force C-141 carried 13 pallets of 65 bales each or about 24 tons of hay, said Air Force spokesman Capt. Chris

See HAY, Page 5-A

Hay

From Page 1-A

King. He said about a dozen farmers helped load the hay in Rockford, Ill., Thursday morning.

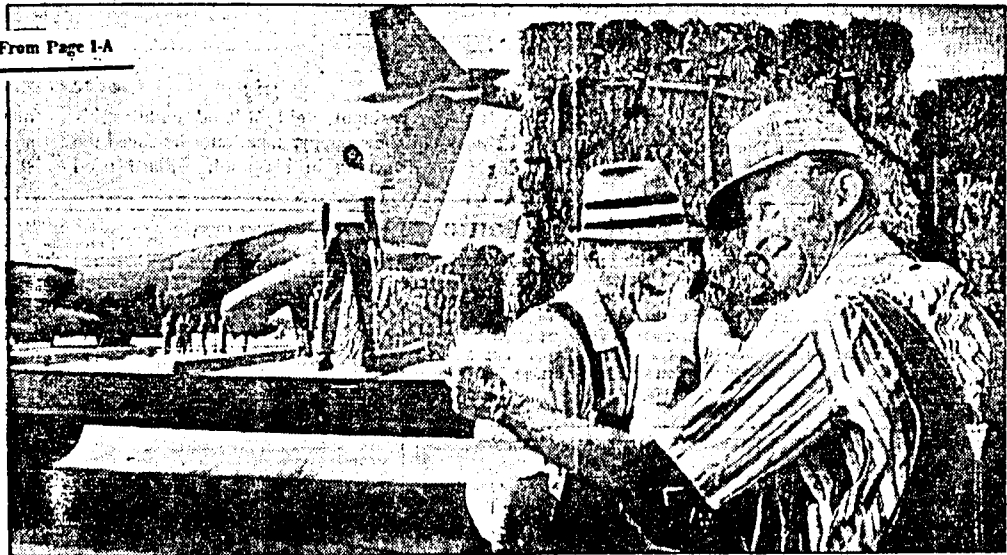
"They were very proud they could help out," he said.

The hay was taken by flatbed truck to a Harris Teeter Corp. warehouse in Charlotte and will be distributed to farmers next week, company spokesman Dan Price said.

North Carolina Air National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Jay Patton said five C-130s each carrying nine tons of hay were expected in Charlotte later Thursday night. He said those aircraft would be carrying hay from Fort Drum, N.Y., near Syracuse.

"We're bringing it in by air to get the ball rolling," said Patton. "Afterwards, they can start bringing it in by rail and truck."

Committees in each county extension office will allocate the hay based on need, said David Tompkins, a policy consultant with the state Agriculture Department.



Mecklenburg Cattle Farmers Ralph Cochran, Left, And Ed Kidd With Donated Hay

Haylift to parched farms

USA TODAY
20 JULY
p. 1

By Timothy McQuay
and Lou Elliott
USA TODAY

THE EVENING POST/The News and Courier

July 20, 1986 136 Pages, 8 Sections, 50¢

Air Force cargo jets deliver Illinois hay to farmers in S.C.

Staff and Wire Reports

Two Air Force cargo jets Saturday hauled more than 40 tons of hay from Illinois to Greenville to feed starving South Carolina livestock suffering in what farmers are calling the state's worst drought ever.

The jets arrived during another day of record-breaking heat that taxed the health of the old and sick and the resources of utilities trying to keep up with the demand for power.

"Farmers always receive a lot of rhetoric and politics ... and this is really something concrete," Gov. Richard W. Riley said after the first of the two planes landed at Donaldson Center.

"It's not much, and no one pretends that it is going to do anything resolving the farm problem. But it is concrete hay that they need, and we are very grateful for it."

Capt. S.T. Scott, the pilot of the first plane, presented Riley with a one-page, handwritten letter from Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson. "Here's 2,000 bales of help from the heart of Illinois. More is on the way," Thompson wrote.

Farmer Ronnie Coker, 23, who helps his father raise cows near Greenville, said the hay is a start.

"That might get us a week, and the cows, it's just enough to make them mad," said Coker, who received 58 bales of hay. "The thing is, there ain't no hay to be got here (South Carolina)."

Coker was a third of the way back in a line of trucks that wound around part of a runway at Donaldson, a former Air Force base that has

•SCE&G helps with cooling bills ... 5-A

been turned into an industrial park.

George Barker, 65, who has 65 head of cattle in Laurens, was the first in line, having arrived before 10 a.m. The first plane touched down at 3:17 p.m., and Barker was loading his hay by 4 p.m.

"I never thought I'd be in this shape. It's the worst I've ever seen. I've seen it dry for a short period of time, but I ain't never seen it where I couldn't get any hay," Barker said as he sat in his rusting truck. "I've got some real skinny cows."

Barker was among 35 farmers in northwestern South Carolina who signed up to receive the hay after the state learned Friday that President Reagan had authorized the use of the military aircraft to airlift it.

Barker said the 58 bales he received would feed his cows for about two weeks.

Each farmer had to certify he would be out of feed in a week, said Danny McNeill of the Clemson University Extension Service.

The hay was offered on a first-come, first-serve basis with county agents accepting applications at 7 a.m. Farmers were waiting in line when agriculture extension service offices in Greenville, Anderson and Laurens counties opened.

Most of the hay was allocated to qualified farmers in the first hour, Extension Service

See Airlift, Page 5-A



AP Laserphoto

Governor pitches in

Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson helps load bales of hay, destined for South Carolina, onto a military plane in Springfield Saturday. The hay was airlifted to drought-stricken farmers in an attempt to help save starving cattle.

Hay for starving cattle arrives today in South Carolina, a gift from Midwest farmers to their Southeast counterparts hard-hit by drought.

About 60 tons of donated hay will be dropped off by two Air Force cargo planes and a truck — a result of last week's appeal by South Carolina Gov. Richard Riley for help.

Operation Hay-Lo — a train to carry 200 tons of hay from Indiana — plans delivery late this week.

Two planes and some trucks arrived over the weekend with the first wave of aid.

"Farmers help their neighbors when their barns burn down. Our Midwest neighbors are helping us after our crops burnt down," struggling dairy farmer Tom Trantham of Pelzer, S.C., said Sunday.

Fifteen days of searing heat, capping months of drought, have withered crops raised by Southeast dairy and beef farmers to feed their herds.

Indiana and Illinois are heavy donors — and hay from Florida, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri and New Jersey has been offered.

"You help as you can. We know what it's like down there, what it's like to do without," said Marjorie Carrico, 43, whose family farm near Rochester, Ind., donated hay.

About 200 to 300 tons of hay a day are needed to feed South Carolina's livestock. Price of hay: about \$50 a ton in Midwest, up to \$200 a ton in South.

Herdsmen in North Carolina and Georgia, with no haylift planned, still buy hay.

Scant relief is forecast for the Southeast: days in the 90s, occasional thunderstorms. Atlanta today starts its first-ever ban on outdoor water use.

Farmers get help on one of state's hottest days



Staff photographer Darrell Hoemann

Crews unload the first shipment of hay to arrive at Donaldson Center Saturday

By Sandy Dees
The Greenville News

GREENVILLE — On one of the hottest days in the state's history, about 54 tons of hay were airlifted into Greenville Saturday to help drought-stricken livestock farmers.

Two Air Force cargo jets hauled a gift of hay from Illinois to feed starving South Carolina livestock suffering in the state's worst drought ever.

"Farmers always receive a lot of rhetoric and politics ... and this is really something concrete," Gov. Dick Riley said after the first of the two planes landed at Donaldson Center.

"It's not much, and no one pretends that it is going to do anything resolving the farm problem. But it is concrete hay that they need, and we are very grateful for it."

George Barker, 65, who has 65 head of cattle in Laurens, was the first in line, having arrived before 10 a.m. The first plane touched down at 3:17 p.m., and Barker was loading his hay by 4 p.m. to take home to his hungry cows.

• **Farming the drought,**
Dimension, Page 1C
• **Heat wave's financial winners, losers,**
City & State, Page 1B

Sunday, July 20, 1986

Drought

Continued

"I never thought I'd be in this shape. It's the worst I've never seen it where I couldn't get any hay," Barker said as he sat in his rusting truck. "I've got some real skinny cows."

Originally, farmers would have been able to receive a maximum of 65 bales of hay. But because less hay arrived than expected, they were limited to 58 bales.

Barker, who said the bales he received would feed his cows about two weeks, was helped in loading the hay by Rep. Carroll Campbell, R-S.C., a gubernatorial candidate who requested President Reagan's approval for the planes.

Jack Rucker, a retired building contractor in Greenville County who had to sell 30 of his 36 cows because there was no hay to feed them, said the gift was an indication "the world isn't that bad."

"The people that gave this hay are in a desperate situation themselves because they are not making any money on their products. And then they turn and give this hay away," Rucker said.

Meanwhile, Riley met with farmers Saturday to help him evaluate the effects of the drought.

Riley — who talked with farmers in Reidville in Spartanburg County and Lancaster — said he hoped to apply for disaster relief this week. Two-thirds of the state's 46 counties might qualify, which would make qualified farmers eligible for low-interest loans and feed subsidies.

Riley visited a farm owned and operated by Andrew De Young and his sons.

"You can read statistics all day long at your desk, but until you come out and talk to farmers face-to-face and you hear ... about how they're losing money year after year, borrowing money, getting deeper in debt, you finally get to the point where you ask, 'Is it worth it?'" Riley said.

Mother Nature turned up the heat Saturday, surpassing the highest temperature on record in Charleston and breaking records for the day in Columbia, Greer and Beaufort.

In Charleston, a high of 104 was the hottest temperature ever recorded in the city, breaking the record of 103 set last week, the National Weather Service in Columbia reported.

At the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, a high of 103 shattered the record for the day and tied the hottest temperature the Weather Service has recorded since moving its offices to the airport in 1962, said meteorologist Dick Mitchell.

The previous record for the day of 97 was set in 1969. The only other time the temperature reached 103 since the Weather Service moved to the airport was on August 22, 1983. The all-time hottest day in Greenville was 101 in July 1952 recorded at the Greenville Downtown Airport.

The mercury reached 106 at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, beating the record of 103 set in 1983. The all-time high at the airport is 107. High temperatures in Columbia have been in the triple digits 11 of the past 13 days. The high in downtown Columbia Saturday was 107.

A high of 105 in Beaufort broke the record for the day, the Marine Corps Air Station reported.

More help for livestock farmers is expected when at least 2,200 more tons of hay are scheduled to arrive by plane, train and trucks during the week, government officials said. Reagan ordered Saturday's shipments and the three shipments scheduled to arrive via Air Force cargo planes by Wednesday. State agriculture officials said they did not know how much hay was being sent in those shipments.

But the bulk of the hay will arrive late this week when a mile-long train, with 80 cars of hay donated by farmers in the Midwest, pulls into South Carolina, said state Agriculture Commissioner Les Tindal. He had said that amount of hay, which could feed the state's livestock for up to a month, would normally cost farmers \$200,000.

The train is expected to depart Thursday or Friday from the Midwest. Each car holds 25 tons.

A "coalition" of at least 10 Midwest trucking companies also has agreed to carry hay for free to South Carolina immediately, Riley said.

Continued from Page 1A

Clemson University extension agents, who coordinated the hay distribution, said 5,700 tons of hay daily would be needed to feed the state's livestock if no other feed were available. The majority of the state's livestock is its 560,000 beef cattle and 56,000 dairy cattle.

An average dairy herd of 280 cows, which includes both milking cows and heifers, eats 81 bales of hay daily, according to Dr. Fred Pardue, a dairy scientist with Clemson University's Agricultural Extension office.

Saturday's hay was distributed on a first-come, first-served basis in Anderson, Greenville and Laurens counties. Those counties were picked on the basis of need. Anderson County was allotted half the hay flown in.

Extension offices opened at 7 a.m. to accept applications, with the Laurens office shutting its doors 45 minutes later when the its allotment was distributed.

Nine Laurens County farmers and 11 Greenville County farmers got in early enough. Anderson County closed last at 9:10 a.m. when 15 farmers took its initial 1,000-bale allotment.

Saturday's shipments came up six tons short of the promised 2,000 bales, but officials blamed the shortage on a poorly packed plane and not a feed shortage.

However, the free feed will run out, warned Tindal. "All of us should be realists and realize it (donations) won't last long."

He said farmers could expect at least six months of hard times, adding that the next grazing crop wouldn't be ready until January.

Thomas Williams, a third-generation farmer from the Denver community in Anderson County, said he will be forced to sell his

Raleigh News and Observer
JULY 25

Reagan promises aid to farmers stricken by 'tragic' drought

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — President Reagan, stumping for Republican candidates, said Thursday that the drought in the Southeast was "reaching tragic proportions, one of the worst of the century" and promised government help.

Arriving in Columbia on the last stop of a two-day swing through Texas, Florida and South Carolina, Reagan watched as bales of hay donated for starving cattle by farmers in Illinois were unloaded by forklift from an Air Force C-141 cargo plane.

"Everything that our farm program will allow us to do, we're going to try to do," Reagan said.

About two hours after Reagan spoke, Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng announced in Washington that a special drought task force would help speed federal aid to the region and that several existing programs would be tailored to help farmers recover from economic losses. No major new spending programs were unveiled.

Throughout the Southeast, crops and pastureland have been ruined by the drought, and many small farmers, already strapped by low prices and high interest rates, face bankruptcy.

Losses in the region have been estimated at \$1 billion or more.

"Even when times are tough, you show your mettle," Reagan said at a \$150-a-person fund-raising luncheon for incumbent Rep. Carroll Campbell, a Republican locked in a close race for governor against Democratic Lt. Gov. Mike Daniel.

"Today, South Carolina's farmers are suffering from drought as are farmers throughout the Southeast. The drought is reaching tragic proportions, one of the worst of the century, and I want you to know that our administration stands ready to help," Reagan said.

At Reagan's direction, the Air Force began ferrying bales of hay from the Midwest to the South last week. At least 570 tons of hay has arrived in South Carolina, where

crop losses are estimated at \$100 million.

Reagan's mention of the airlift brought cheers and applause from the audience of 1,200. Noting that he had met with two farmers earlier, he said, "what dignity, what determination to stick it out until better days."

Reagan's visit came one day after Democratic Sen. Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina accused the White House of "playing politics with our disaster relief."

Hollings said that he had arranged to have 30 tons of hay shipped from Massachusetts but that the White House had refused to airlift it, even though it had carried similar airlifts for Republican members of South Carolina's congressional delegation.

Responding to the charge, White House spokesman Lawrence M. Speakes said, "There is quite a bit of hay coming into South Carolina. I'm sure that as time goes by it certainly will be enough to feed the cows."



Maxwell AFB personnel unload hay from a C-141 in Montgomery, Ala.

Bailout Southern farmers grateful for free hay

United Press International

To the tune of "Happy Days Are Here Again," a 79-car train from Indiana barreled into South Carolina Tuesday with 2,000 tons of free hay for starving livestock.

Around the same time, a 97-car train from Illinois pulled into Atlanta with 1,500 tons of hay to be sold at discount to Georgia farmers.

And cattlemen in Alabama began picking up 50 tons of hay flown in from Colorado on two Air Force cargo planes.

The three Southern states — along with North Carolina — are the hardest hit in a prolonged drought that has wrought at least \$1.2 billion in damage to crops, livestock and pastures in Dixie.

Sympathetic Midwestern farmers are donating some of their bumper crops of grain to the hard-pressed Southerners.

"THANKS HOOSIERS" read a sign from a truck-bed platform as the train screeched into Columbia, S.C., with the Indiana and South Carolina flags fluttering from the locomotive and loudspeakers blaring music.

"It is often said that America is great because America is good. And there is no better example of the goodness of this great country and its people than this train from Indiana," said South Carolina Gov. Dick Riley, speaking from a flatbed truck.

Some 20 farmers, each allowed a maximum of 100 bales, eagerly began loading the hay onto trucks to take to their farms.

"I think it's a great gesture," said John Fisher, who raises Arabian horses about 10 miles east of

Columbia. "It's just a kind of helping hand and every bit helps."

"It's going to make a tremendous difference," said cattleman Edward Wilson. "It's a wonderful gesture. I hope that some day there is some way we can express our thanks."

As a small token, Indiana Lt. Gov. John Mutz, who accompanied the train, was presented a basket of South Carolina peaches to the applause of a crowd of officials, farmers and spectators perspiring in the mid-90-degree heat.

THE TRAINS AT COLUMBIA and Atlanta were donated by CSX Seaboard Systems Railways and engineers and brakemen worked free. Railway spokesman Lloyd Lewis said another train would leave Kentucky with hay for North Carolina later this week.

"I've not heard anybody complain about the possibility of paying \$50 a ton," said Georgia Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Bridges, explaining the Illinois hay isn't being given away because "their producers are in economic straits, too. They need at least to get production costs out of it."

At Montgomery, Ala., some 28 cattlemen picked up hay donated by a Colorado farmer and flown to Alabama.

"I'm going to maintain my cattle one way or another because they've maintained me all of my life and I'm not going to let them down," V.C. Martin said. "We didn't expect to get this kind of action. If the good Lord is willing and if the creek don't dry up, we're going to make it."

Farmers greet hay as godsend

Wisconsin bales reach Georgia

By STEVE SCHULTZE
of The Journal staff

Atlanta, Ga. — "Tell the people in Wisconsin, 'Thanks a million.'"

Wisconsin hay — about 10 tons of it airlifted by military cargo plane and 80 tons trucked in by private haulers — was greeted as a godsend Friday morning by Franklin Dockerty. He and more than 50 other Georgia farmers lined up at a market just south of Atlanta to receive their ration.

The free hay and thunderstorms Thursday night were a double blessing.

The drought may be the Southeast's worst since the 1700s; story on Page 8A.

ing for Georgia farmers in this rain-starved state.

Some of the farmers had come Thursday and stayed all night to be at the head of the line.

One was Jack Keith, 54, a cattle farmer from Newnan County, who sold off or lost 22 of his 40 beef cattle because of the drought.

"Five died on me," said Keith, sitting patiently in his pickup truck.

"We ain't had no rain in at least four months," he said. "This is the worst dry spell we've ever had."

Dockerty and his wife, Sara, were forced to dig a deeper well on their farm in Carnesville, Ga., after their original one went dry in April.

Please see Hay, Page 10A

Georgia farmers greet Wisconsin hay as godsend

Hay, from Page 1

Things are so dry, Sara Dockerty said, that cattle are eating leaves off bushes and trees. Hay is not available at a reasonable price, the Dockertys said.

Like other farmers anxious to get a ration of hay, the Dockertys were protective of the letter they had from their county extension agent certifying that they, indeed, needed hay for their livestock.

Hay rations of up to 50 bales were being given to farmers, based on the number of livestock they owned.

The small mountain of hay assembled at the State Farmers Market was delivered by National Guard and private trucks and unloaded by Georgia prisoners.

Guards toting shotguns stood watch over the scene.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin said the airlifted hay was only a small stopgap measure, but publicity surrounding it was bringing in promises of more substantial donations.

"What it has done is draw the national attention and the spirit of America," Irvin said.

Hay from as far away as Washington state has been promised, he said, as well as from all over the Midwest. Illinois sent an airlift of hay earlier this week, which was parceled out to 38 farmers.

A major contribution of hay has been pledged by the G. Hellemann Brewing Co. of La Crosse, Wis., Irvin said. Company officials promised Thursday to send "several hundred tons" of Wisconsin hay to Georgia.

The drought has been so severe in Georgia that disaster declarations have been sought for all its 157 counties, Irvin said. The state has had virtually no hay crop this season and needs about 2 million tons to get through until next spring.

Crop damage is impossible to estimate, but it is in the hundreds of millions of dollars, he said. Non-irrigated soybean and corn crops were wiped out and Georgia's peanut crop also is threatened.

Rainfall is 20 inches below normal in most of the state, he said.

Scattered heavy rain did little to allay the 19-day heat wave and record drought that have cost farmers \$1.12 billion in the South. The heat wave has been blamed for 46 deaths in the South and Midwest since July 7.

Temperatures in the Southeast were expected to remain in the 90s again Thursday, the National Weather Service said.

The showpiece of Wisconsin's hay donation effort — an armada of three C-130 Air Force Reserve planes — flew to drought-stricken Georgia Thursday with 1,400 bales from the Reedsburg area.

The flights originated from Milwaukee's Mitchell Field and were conducted by the Air Force Reserve's 440th Tactical Air Wing. Hay was picked up at Volk Field near Tomah, after being trucked there by two private haulers, Skinner Trucking and Reedsburg Foods.

The planes flew to Dobbins Air Base in Marietta, Ga., where the hay was loaded onto trucks and taken to the farmers market.

How much will it help?

How many cows will the hay being shipped south from Wisconsin feed?

A producing dairy cow can eat up to a bale a day, the exact amount depending on several variables, according to Leonard L. Strozinski, dairy herd manager for the University of Wisconsin Extension-US Department of Agriculture Dairy Forage Research Center in Prairie du Sac.

Strozinski said a Holstein cow, for example, would eat about 3.5% of her body weight in dry matter a day. For a 1,400-pound Holstein, that would be about 50 pounds. If the cow was also getting grain, she would get along on less hay, he said.

A dry cow or a brood or beef cow could eat less, he said. The amount could also vary according to the quality of the hay.

While the flights amount to only "a drop in the bucket" of Wisconsin's drought-relief effort for Southern farmers, they will give the effort great visibility, said Mitchell Metz, Gov. Earl's aide for farm issues.

"It's something around which some attention can be focused," he said.

The airlift operation was dubbed "Operation Volant Banner" by Air Force officials. Volant is Latin for "to fly."

Maj. Richard W. Burke Jr., the pilot of the first C-130 to leave Volk Field, warned the 11 news media personnel and six other crew members on board that the 400 bales of hay and hot ground temperatures would turn the plane into a flying silo.

It did, at least for the first hour or so of the flight, as the air grew hot and heavy with the pungent-sweet smell of the hay. Then the high-altitude chill kicked in, erasing the odor.

The presence of news media members reduced the hay capacity of the plane by 100 bales.

Each plane carried less hay than an average semitrailer truck. The C-130s held 400 to 500 bales, while the trucks can carry about 700 bales.

The haylift was authorized late Wednesday by the White House, after a confusing two-day delay. Only three flights had been authorized Thursday, with no indication of whether further haylifts would be approved.

The bulk of the 45,000 bales of hay pledged by Wisconsin farmers is expected to be transported South by rail, after being trucked to Chicago, Metz said.

The Florida-based rail carrier CSX has agreed to take the first trainload of Wisconsin hay from Chicago to Alabama free of charge, Metz said.

That load is expected to be shipped to Chicago by private trucks donating their services, he said. The load should contain about 10,000 to 20,000 bales.

A second trainload on CSX, shipped at a reduced freight rate, should clean out Wisconsin's donated hay, he said.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL Friday, July 25, 1986

Page 1

Georgia farmers wait patiently for donated hay

By Rick Romell
Sentinel staff writer

Atlanta, Ga. — "You see that right there where it's dead, that dead grass? That's the way ours is," Franklin Dockery said.

Dockery was pointing at a parched little patch on the fringes of the State Farmers Market, where he hoped to get a bit of the Wisconsin hay flown here Thursday.

The hay was to be distributed to drought-stricken Georgia farmers at 8 a.m. Friday.

Dockery was 11th in line at 7 p.m. Thursday. He's trying to hang onto the 45 head of beef cattle he has on his farm 100 miles northeast of here.

He and his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Michele, drove here in a light blue pickup truck after hearing of the hay on the 5:30 news.

"We stayed out all night for the Illinois hay," Mrs. Dockery said, referring to two plane loads from Rockford, Ill., that were distributed Wednesday.

"We figured if we could get a little bit it would keep them (the cattle) alive," Mr. Dockery, 51, added.

The Dockerys got a few days'

worth of hay Wednesday, but need more.

"You know, we just can't buy it," said Mrs. Dockery, 51. "We can't find a supplier at any price."

"There's no hay to be had," her husband said.

The first load of airlifted Wisconsin hay — enough to feed perhaps 1,600 drought-stricken Georgia cows for a day — arrived at the Farmers' Market just as a cloudburst soaked the sprawling grounds.

"It probably hasn't raised this much in two months or more," Mrs. Dockery said.

Twenty white-suited inmates from a Georgia prison, under armed guard, were waiting to unload the hay, which had been driven on National Guard trucks by police escort from Dobbins Air Force Base in nearby Marietta.

The 15,500-pound drop in the Southeastern drought-relief bucket was flown to Dobbins by Milwaukee-based Air Force reservists on a C-130 cargo plane that once transported troops and equipment in Vietnam.

Two other C-130s, each carrying a slightly larger load than the first, followed.



Bales of hay that were donated by Wisconsin farmers and flown to Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Ga., were loaded onto trucks by Georgia state prison inmates for distribution in Atlanta

The planes were flown by members of the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve from Volk Field near Camp Douglas, Wis.

The hay was part of an estimated 45,000 bales pledged so far by Wisconsin residents for aid to Southeastern farmers. The airlift was authorized Wednesday by President Reagan after a push from Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.).

Farmers struggling to cope with

this year's drought and heat in the Southeast deeply appreciate donations such as Thursday's haylift from Wisconsin, said Lt. Col. Roland Reed, public affairs officer at Dobbins.

But Reed also said, "This is really a stopgap measure when you come right down to it, because you can't feed the world with two, three, four, five planeloads of hay."

While there was rain in some parts of northern Georgia Thursday, Reed

to drought-stricken farmers. The hay was flown in three C-130 cargo planes by members of the Milwaukee-based 440th Tactical Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve. — Sentinel photo by Lynn D. Howell

said parts of the area remained 16 inches behind the normal accumulation of 30 inches of rain by this time of year.

"It was dry last summer and it's worse now and we're really in serious trouble," Reed said.

"The problem is the fields are like this," he said, pointing to a strip of pale green and brown stubble along a divided highway.

Reed was on his way to the Farm-

ers' Market, a wholesale distribution center, where Wisconsin's hay is to be distributed Friday to needy farmers.

Those with less than five days' supply of hay can receive the donated feed on a first-come, first-served basis.

It took just two hours Wednesday to give away about 90,000 pounds of hay — almost twice the total on Thursday's airlift — flown in from Illinois.

Donated Wisconsin hay heads to South

By STEVE SCHULTZE
Journal Madison bureau

Madison, Wis. — Up to 1,000 bales of donated Wisconsin hay were expected to be flown Tuesday by military transport planes to drought-stricken farmers in Georgia, state officials said.

Approval for use of Air Force Reserve cargo planes was expected to come from Washington, D.C., according to Ronald McCrea, Gov. Earl's press secretary.

The operation was to be carried out by Air Force Reservists

from Milwaukee's 440th Tactical Airlift Wing as part of a training exercise, he said.

"They are ready to roll as soon as the federal authorities OK it," McCrea said.

The airlift was hastily organized after news reports that the South faced a \$1 billion crop loss because of a record heat wave. That loss includes livestock feed and forage crops.

The first shipment of Wisconsin hay was expected to be airlifted from either Madison or Reedsburg Tuesday afternoon by Air Force Reserve C-130 cargo planes.

Please see Hay, Page 8A

CHARLESTON NEWS & COURIER 24 JULY P. 2A

More Hay Arrives for Livestock

Staff and Wire Reports

By truck and by plane, more hay arrived Wednesday in South Carolina to save cattle from the slaughterhouse, while Lt. Gov. Michael R. Daniel helped load a hay train in Indiana and exclaimed "the heart of America is big."

From Iowa, four C-141 Air Force cargo planes were loaded with 77 tons of hay Wednesday morning and landed in the afternoon at the Donaldson Industrial Air Park outside Greenville for livestock owners stricken by the drought.

Farmers with less than a week's supply of food for cattle and dairy cows in Greenwood, Lancaster, Pickens, Union and York counties were allocated a share of the free hay from the heartland.

"About three years ago we had a drought here in Iowa and I know what they're going through down there," said Marvin Nimke, a part-time rural Fort Dodge farmer who delivered hay for the airlift.

"If we can help them out, I hope they can do the same for us someday down the road."

From Kentucky came two truckloads of hay distributed to drought-plagued farmers in Kershaw and Lancaster counties.

From Minnesota, 1,200 miles away, and Montana, a trip of 2,000 miles, truckers hauling hay were due

in South Carolina late Wednesday.

On the fifth day of Operation Haylift, 8,500 bales of alfalfa, 250 tons' worth, had arrived in South Carolina to help 340 farmers, said Edith Caudle with Gov. Richard W. Riley's emergency management office.

A mile-long, 200-car train named the "Haylo" is expected to arrive in South Carolina from Indiana on Sunday or Monday with 2,000 tons of hay.

Illinois was planning to assemble a train to carry 1,600 tons of hay. Colorado farmers have pledged 20 tons and Oregon producers have promised 100 tons, said Don Tudor, Riley's transportation aide.

Growers in Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, South Dakota and Texas also have offered to help, Tudor said. Governors in Missouri and Kansas agreed to pitch in with hay and feed grain from their states.

And U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., charged Wednesday that the White House is trying to make political hay from the situation.

Hollings said the White House is quick to provide Air Force transport planes to fly surplus hay to South Carolina when Republicans like Sen. Strom Thurmond ask for help, but Democrats get a different answer.

"I called the White House to see about getting a plane to pick up and deliver 30 tons of hay from Massachusetts and they told me to get a

truck," Hollings said.

Hollings said he had arranged for the hay through Democratic Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., but was shot down when he talked to Andrew Card, acting director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House.

"He told me to get a truck," Hollings said in disbelief. "I told him the White House was playing politics with our disaster relief and told him these were not Democratic or Republican cows."

"They fly the hay in from Illinois when others call. But when we (Democrats) have hay to deliver, they tell us to get a truck. What the hell is going on? This is a disgraceful example of putting politics ahead of the needs of our people. Our farmers need that hay and they need it now," he said.

As of late Wednesday, Hollings said he was still trying to find a way to get the Massachusetts hay delivered to South Carolina.

Hay, from Page 1

The hay was to be taken to Dobson Air Force Base in Marietta, Ga., and delivered to a farmers market near there for pickup, McCrea said.

More airlifts are expected to be organized using the Air Force C-130s or the much larger C-141s.

More than 15,000 bales of Wisconsin hay have been offered for the relief operation so far.

Earl's office was coordinating the airlift. The governor was expected to ride a military cargo plane for a trip from Milwaukee's Mitchell Airport to either Madison or Reedsburg for the hay pickup, McCrea said.

The airlift today initially had been expected to be out of Reedsburg Municipal Airport, but there was some question about whether that airport could accommodate the cargo planes, McCrea said.

The destination for the first Wisconsin hay load was arranged by state agriculture officials, who have been discussing drought problems with their counterparts in Southern states.

Georgia farmers who want some of the Wisconsin hay will be required to show letters from a local agricultural extension agent certifying their need, said Mitchell Metz, an aide to Earl. They will be allowed up to 5 tons each, or about 200 bales.

For the airlift Tuesday, Wisconsin National Guard troops based in Monroe were expected to take hay donated from farmers in the Stoughton area to the Dan County airport. It was decided that the planes would leave from Madison.

If it was decided that the planes should leave from Reedsburg, farmers in that area had arranged to deliver the hay to Reedsburg Municipal Airport.

In Georgia, prison inmates are expected to unload the hay from the planes.

Six Southeastern states, including Georgia, are experiencing the worst drought problems, said Richard Rodelfeld, an economist with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Besides Georgia, they are Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina. In addition, parts

of six additional Southern states are experiencing extreme drought conditions, he said.

The formal request for use of the military cargo planes was made in Washington at Earl's request by Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.).

The Southern states' drought has been called the worst in this century. Temperatures were near or above 100 degrees for 15 days in parts of Georgia and the Carolinas.

Wisconsin isn't the first state to respond with donated hay. Illinois shipped two cargo plane loads of hay Saturday and more Monday. Other Midwestern states are considering hay donations as well.

The drought problems are as great as the donated hay will meet only a small part of the need, officials said. For example, the 15,000 bales of hay pledged by Wisconsin farmers will meet the livestock needs for just one day in just one state, South Carolina.

"There is only so much we can make available," said Wisconsin Agriculture Secretary Howard Richards.

He praised Wisconsin farmers' generosity, but said there was a limit to what could be done.

He also sounded a critical note on the practicality of the operation:

"It makes good television to have airplanes flying a bunch of hay around," Richards said.

Other forms of transportation for shipping Wisconsin hay south are being explored.

Donations of hay or of hay transportation may be made by calling the state agriculture department's hot line, (800) 367-3020.

Dixie farmers line up in Atlanta for free hay flown from Midwest

By the Associated Press

Farmers drove 100 miles and lined up overnight yesterday in Georgia for a chance at free hay to feed cattle starving in a drought that has cost farmers in the Southeast an estimated \$1.5 billion and forced water conservation measures.

Although temperatures have temporarily eased in the region after 2½ weeks of 100-degree highs, the death toll since July 1 rose to 42.

Georgia cattlemen lined up yesterday at the Atlanta Farmers Market for a share of 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers and flown in by Air Force cargo jets.

"This is our only chance to keep our cattle alive," said Sara Dockery of Ebyston, who drove 100 miles. "This means the cows will survive for five more days," said her husband, Franklin.

The first farmer in line was Dale Banford, of Winder, who said he arrived Tuesday night. He said he has had to feed his 60 beef cattle apples and stale bread, and they ate leaves off trees blown down in a storm last week. "This is a short start, but it's a start," he said.

Banford was among about 40 farmers who got up to 50 bales each. Twenty-five others were turned away when the hay ran out after four hours, and some of them left their trailers behind so they would be at the head of the line tomorrow, when more free hay is to be distributed.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin estimated that in his state alone, farmers will need 2 million tons of hay to feed their cattle through spring.

Clouds and scattered rain kept the Southeast below 100 degrees for a second consecutive day. But Macon, Ga.,

came close with a high of 98. Columbia, S.C., reached only 96 yesterday and 97 Tuesday, ending a record string of 15 days of triple-digit temperatures.

But highs could be over 100 again next week, said Charlotte Camp of the National Weather Service in Columbia.

Scattered thunderstorms developed Tuesday from Maryland to Florida, dumping more than 3 inches of rain on Valdosta, Ga., within six hours.

But the rain is too late for some crops. "Soybeans could improve some if there is rain, but it's certainly too late for crops such as corn," said Henry Power with the South Carolina Crop Reporting Service.

Tennessee is faring better than neighboring states, but it is still 15 inches below normal rainfall for the year. Only 10 percent of its pastures are listed in good condition and farmers are selling some cattle to conserve feed, state officials said.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Monday, July 21, 1986

page 31

Farmers Praised For 'Haylift' Effort

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois farmers donated hay to feed starving cattle in the South because they've known hard times themselves. Gov. James R. Thompson said as an Air Force "haylift" began Saturday.

The governor lent a hand to about a dozen farmers and about 40 Illinois Army and Air National Guard troops who loaded about 1,700 bales of hay onto two military cargo planes at Capital Airport.

The shipment, totaling 60 tons, was bound for Greenville-Spartanburg Airport in drought-stricken South Carolina. Two more shipments aboard Air Force C-141 Starlifter cargo jets were scheduled for Monday.

Thompson said he wasn't surprised at the generosity of Illinois farmers.

"These are people who have spent their whole lives trying to feed the world and battling drought, rain, hail, insects and government bureaucracy every day of their lives," Thompson said. "They can handle anything. They can handle a drought for their neighbors."

President Reagan ordered the Air Force on Friday to deliver the hay for the farmers' relief effort organized by Thompson and South Carolina Gov. Richard Riley.

Reagan issued the order because the emergency shipments were scheduled for delivery by train and wouldn't have arrived until later this week, said White House spokesman Denny Britley.

He said Thompson, a Republican, had organized the relief ef-

fort at the suggestion of Riley, a Democrat. South Carolina is among the states hardest hit by the arid heat wave in the Southeast.

Thompson asked Illinois farmers to contribute hay for feed or sell it at a reduced cost.

"Farmers in the southeastern states, especially Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, are in a desperate struggle to keep their cattle alive," Thompson said in an earlier statement. "Hay is selling for \$200 a ton in those states. But here in Illinois, we have plenty of high quality hay — far in excess of demand — and it is selling for only \$50 a ton."

Riley said he also would seek a federal disaster declaration for "at least two-thirds or more" of South Carolina.

The record drought continued Saturday as highs reached 103 in Columbia, S.C., the 14th consecutive day the state's capital has hit the 100-degree mark.

About 300 tons of hay already has been offered to South Carolina by farmers in the Midwest, Riley said.

South Carolina farmers have also been offered help by farmers in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Florida, Maine and New Jersey, said South Carolina's agriculture commissioner, Les Tindal.

South Carolina farmers were waiting in line to apply for the free hay when agriculture extension service offices opened early Saturday in three counties. Most of the hay, no more than 65 bales to a farmer, was allocated to qualified farmers in the first hour, officials said.

THE SUN, 28 Jul 86

2 Norton planes on haylift mission

SAN BERNARDINO — Two cargo planes from Norton Air Force Base will join this morning in the nation's mercy mission to take hay to starving animals in the drought-stricken Southeast, Norton officials said Sunday.

The two C-141s will pick up loads of hay in Grand Junction, Colo., and deliver them to Maxwell Air Force Base near Montgomery, Ala., said Jackie Bunn, Norton spokeswoman.

In Indianapolis Sunday, about 1,800 tons of donated hay were loaded on an 80-boxcar train bound for Columbia, S.C. Valued at \$145,000, the hay was donated by 128 farmers in 50 Indiana counties.

"This is what happens when people are victims of things they can't control. It brings people together," said Indiana Lt. Gov. John Butz before the train, bearing a "Hoosier Hay Express" banner, pulled away.

In addition, National Guard volunteers in Boston loaded a Federal Express jet with hay and it was flown Sunday to Charleston, S.C.

The donated hay will feed animals that have been starving because extreme heat and a lack of water have killed the grasses they normally would eat.

Today's mission will be the second time Norton's Military Airlift Command cargo planes have made such a delivery, Bunn said. Last Wednesday, two C-141s flew loads of hay from Des Moines, Iowa, to Donaldson, S.C.

Each aircraft can carry 13 pallets loaded with hay, but Bunn

said she didn't know the weight of each plane's load. However, a load that size so completely fills the plane's cargo area that the entire crew must ride in the cockpit, she said. Usually, the loadmasters and any passengers can ride in back with the cargo.

As of Friday, more than 18,000 bales, or more than 500 tons of hay, had been shipped to the Southeast by the Military Airlift Command, Bunn said.

The planes leaving today will depart at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

The hay flown to South Carolina from Boston was divided among the first 18 farmers who asked for it. One of them, Everett King, said his 230 beef cattle have eaten his pasture down to the dirt.

Tons of hay donated by farmers from New England to the Plains already has been moved into the Southeast by trucks and other Air Force cargo planes.

But herds in North Carolina alone consume about 7,000 tons of hay a day, and many farmers will need out-of-state hay until next spring, said Jim Oliver, chairman of the state's Drought Task Force.

"The donations are appreciated, but they're largely symbolic," said North Carolina State University spokesman Tom Byrd. "The chances of getting enough hay to meet our needs are slim. The needs are just massive."

But in Alabama, Alice Parts of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives said, "For a person with two cows, 40 bales means a lot. Some of them are dependent on the cow for milk for the family. It means they will be able to keep that cow."

Tuesday, July 22, 1986 Charleston, S.C.

Thurmond Appeals For Aid *The News & Courier Pg. 5-B*

More Hay Flown To Parched S.C.

Staff and Wire Reports

South Carolina farmers received some help Monday as more hay from the Midwest arrived on two Air Force cargo jets, and Sen. Strom Thurmond issued appeals on behalf of farmers.

Thurmond, R-S.C., called on three governors, the Pentagon, the White House and the Internal Revenue Service to aid S.C. farmers.

A 15-ton truckload of 470 bales of Indiana hay was distributed to nine farmers Monday behind a National Guard Armory in Newberry. And an Air Force C-141 cargo jet carrying hay was unloaded in Greenville in the afternoon.

Charleston Air Force Base spokesman Capt. Buddy Gray said two planes will leave at 6 a.m. today for Rockford, Ill., each to pick up about 60,000 pounds of hay to be distributed to farmers across the state. He said two more planes will fly Wednesday to Springfield, Ill., to pick up more.

Indiana Lt. Gov. John M. Mitz said a 100-car train carrying more hay would leave later this week. In all, Indiana farmers had donated 1,500 tons of hay worth \$120,000 as of Monday, said Gov. Robert D. Orr.

Two C-141s on Saturday hauled more than 40 tons of hay from Illinois to feed South Carolina livestock suffering in the drought.

Also Monday, Thurmond asked the Pentagon to buy South Carolina's surplus meats, which threaten to glut the markets because the state's

cattle farmers were unable to feed their herds.

And because the drought has robbed South Carolina farmers of their grain crops used to feed livestock, Thurmond has asked the governors of Iowa, Kansas and Missouri to have their farmers donate surplus grain and hay to S.C. farmers.

In return, Thurmond asked the IRS to allow these Midwestern farmers to claim a tax deduction for the grain and hay they send to South Carolina and other drought-stricken states.

And since state farmers can't afford to ship the feed grains here, Thurmond asked the White House to provide more military aircraft to airlift the supplies from the Midwest to the more remote areas of the state.

"I've never seen him (Thurmond) react so strongly," Thurmond aide Mark Goodin said. "He said he wanted to do anything and everything possible to help them."

Goodin said Thurmond will tour the Orangeburg area today with drought experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assess crop damage as crops continue to cook in the heat wave.

Earlier in the day, Thurmond and Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., began working on the USDA for help in the form of federal disaster loans.

Estimates for South Carolina crop damage from the drought are conservatively said to be "several million dollars," said Ernie Nunnery, a spokesman for the S.C. Agricultural Commission.

Some officials said the state's crop losses could be up to \$100 million.

But getting those numbers together isn't an easy task. To get loans from the Farmers Home Administration for human consumption crops, 30 percent of all farmers in a county must have suffered a 30 percent loss in one particular crop.

If the damaged crops are feed grains for livestock, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service requires that 40 percent of a county's farmers have suffered a 50 percent loss. Even then, there are no loans for feed grains. If the farmers qualify, they are given grain from the Commodity Credit Corp.

Just getting the numbers together doesn't mean help is on the way from Washington. Most officials involved in the disaster aid machine say who gets the loans isn't a political decision — but when they get them is another matter.

"You've got to qualify for it, and that requires a lot of information," Nunnery said. "But we've never had a problem getting the loans when they are needed. The trick is the turnaround time."

"If anything happens in less than 10 days, you're doing all right," Thurmond aide Goodin added.

If a farmer qualifies, he could borrow up to \$100,000 at 5 percent interest or more than \$100,000 at 8 percent interest. If he does, he also must agree to operate his farm according to a plan developed by FmHA.

Ill. hay bales help bail out S.C. farmers

By Mark Mayfield
USA TODAY

GREENVILLE, S.C. — They came in battered flatbeds and pickup trucks and sweated under their overalls, soiled shirts and baseball caps.

In 100-degree heat, 40 farmers lined up patiently at an old military base here and took home their share of 800 bales of hay airlifted Monday from farmers in Moline, Ill.

"It's a blessing," said Catherine Uldrick, who needs the hay to feed the beef cattle she raises with her husband in Donalds, S.C.

The Southern hay crop has withered in 15 days of searing

heat and months of drought.

Monday's delivery by an Air Force C-141 transport plane followed two on Saturday — most of the hay on board gifts from Midwestern farmers.

Two more planes — all at federal expense — should arrive in Athens, Ga., today. Two others will land here Thursday. The dry spell's "the worst we've had at least since the turn of the century," said Dan Ezell of the state Cooperative Extension Service.

First in line Monday was Jerry Glenn, 42, Anderson, S.C., dairy farmer and father of four. He got 65 bales of hay, but said that won't last the week for his 200 cows. Worse, he got a foreclosure notice Saturday.

"They sit up there in Washington in their air-conditioned offices. They don't know what's going on," Glenn said.

Said dairy farmer Earl Spencer, after picking up 33 bales: "If it doesn't rain, I don't know what we're going to do."

The generosity of Illinois farmers impressed the crew of the C-141. "This is fabulous," said Harry Burgoyne, a British Royal Air Force pilot on exchange in the USA. "Willie Nelson would be proud."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

19 JULY
P. 22 A

Energy Demand at Peak as Dixie Heat Sets Marks

From Times Wire Services

Electric companies throughout the Midwest reached peak energy demands Friday, swapping megawatts among themselves to help keep people cool.

The Southeast, meanwhile, remained entrenched in the sizzling heat wave that extended into its 13th day. The heat has been blamed for at least 17 deaths.

Afternoon temperatures ranged from the low 90s in Michigan to 100 degrees in Augusta, Ga., 103 in Fayetteville, N.C., and 97 in Washington, D.C. It hit 99 in Atlanta, breaking a record set in 1944, and 98 at North Carolina's Raleigh-Durham Airport, breaking a 1948 record.

It was 105 degrees in Columbia, S.C., marking the 13th day in a row that the city had seen the mercury in triple digits.

Peak Power Demands

Utility companies in Ohio reached peak demands for the

second straight day as temperatures shot up to 95 in Columbus. Commonwealth Edison customers in Chicago strained energy limits for a third consecutive day Friday.

Increased energy demands forced utilities to buy power from other utility companies, ComEd spokesman Carter Brydon said.

Hot and humid air pumped into the Great Lakes, keeping temperatures in the mid 90s. Midwesterners braced for continued heat through at least the weekend as the heat wave kept creeping westward into the Dakotas.

While some parts of the upper Midwest were expected to cool by early next week, temperatures of over 100 were forecast for the weekend in South Carolina and Georgia.

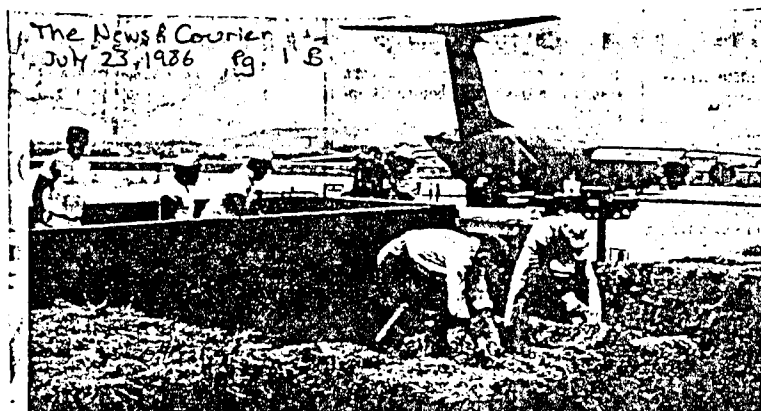
Assistant Press Secretary Denny Brissett said an Air Force C141 transport will leave Springfield, Ill., today and arrive at Spartanburg-Greenville, S.C., airport with a load of hay.

South Carolina Gov. Richard W. Riley, a Democrat, brought the predicament of his state's farmers to public attention, and Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson, a Republican, offered to send surplus hay by train. But that would have taken until Thursday, when Reagan is to appear at a political fund-raiser for GOP gubernatorial candidate Carroll Campbell.

USA TODAY

JULY 22

P. 3A



Staff Photo by Frederick Horlbeck

Air Force Crew Brings Donated Hay To Southeast

By FREDERICK HORLBECK
Post-Courier Reporter

A C-141 Starlifter left Charleston Air Force Base before dawn Tuesday, its seven crew members on a mission of mercy.

The huge transport jet, piloted by Capt. Mark W. Rolle, lifted into Charleston's muggy skies and headed northwest to Rockford, Ill. to load more than 20 tons of hay donated by farmers from around Winnebago County to farmers in the drought-stricken Southeast.

The jet, of the 437th Military Airlift Wing, carried the hay to Dobbins Air Force Base near Marietta, Ga., where Tommy Irvin, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, helped heap bales onto tractor-trailers and described the drought's effects.

"The pastures are parched," he said. "There isn't much else to say."

Prolonged drought and a heat wave in the Southeast

Hay For The Farmers

Lending a hand with a haylift, Georgia Department of Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin (left, front) helps convicts

throw bales of hay into a tractor-trailer at Dobbins Air Force Base near Marietta, Ga.

See Haylift, Page 2-B

Belleville News-Democrat

Wednesday, July 23, 1986

page 4B

Hay donated by Illinoisans arrives for Georgia farms

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — About 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers arrived Tuesday for distribution in Georgia, where a prolonged drought has forced farmers to take their starving cattle to slaughter early.

The hay, donated by farmers in Rockford, Ill., arrived aboard two C-141 transport planes at Dobbins Air Force Base near Marietta. After being removed from the planes by forklift, the hay was loaded onto flatbed trucks by state prisoners and then taken to the State Farmers Market in Forest Park for distribution Wednesday.

"This 40 tons is mostly symbolic, a stopgap measure," said Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy

Irvin, who was on hand to meet the shipments and participated in the unloading. "But that draws national attention to our plight."

A prolonged drought and a two-week heat wave have left Georgia cattlemen and farmers several hundred thousand tons short of hay, Irvin said, estimating that the state's farmers will need 2 million tons to feed their cattle through the spring.

Gov. Joe Frank Harris asked federal officials Tuesday to declare the state an agricultural disaster area, making farmers eligible for low-interest loans.

The shortage of hay has forced many farmers to bring their herds to market earlier than expected, Irvin said.

Continued From Page 1-B

have hurt crops, killed chickens, threatened livestock, and left farmers short of hay. By airlifting hay, the Air Force and Illinois farmers hope to help southern farmers stave off complete disaster.

Two more Charleston-based jets are scheduled to join the haylift, and President Reagan is expected to greet one of them Thursday at Columbia Airport, said Capt. Chris King, public affairs officer for the 315 Military Airlift Wing.

Georgia farmers have suffered about \$200 million in crop and livestock losses during a six-month drought, said Christine Thompson, a spokesman for the state agricultural department.

The plane piloted by Rolle was the third of four Charleston-based planes to carry hay to South Carolina and Georgia. The fourth C-141 followed Tuesday with another 20 tons for Marietta. The hay will be distributed today free of charge at the State Farmers Market in Atlanta.

Rolle, a veteran of 3,000 flying hours, is an old hand at flying cargo. But, he said, "It has a little more meaning when you do it like this."

The haylift left other crewmembers feeling good, too. Sgt. Greg B. Peterson, 25, a loadmaster, said he asked to go on the mission.

"I wanted to get on it because it's something that helps the farmers, and I'm from a small farm in Minnesota," he said.

At Greater Rockford Airport, farmers towing bales of hay in carts

drove onto the runway and then watched as convicts from a nearby prison and Illinois National Guardsmen loaded their hay onto pallets. Air Force crewmen then loaded 46,300 pounds of hay into the plane.

"It gives you a good feeling to help somebody," said Dick Johnson, a 49-year-old farmer from Rockford as he stood by a truck piled high with his donation. "It seems like the general feeling in northern Illinois is that they're willing to help."

Twenty-six-year-old Ron Schroder, a hired hand for farmer Roger Morse of Winnebago, stood in front of 145 bales of hay in a cart hitched to an old blue truck. "It's nice to be able to help," he said, peering at the big, shadowy transport as a forklift carried a bundle of hay into its depths.

The bales were Morse's contribution to a cause that Illinois farmers have made their own in what one local agricultural official called a "phenomenal" response to the drought.

"We do a lot of that. If a neighbor gets in trouble, we all try to pitch in and help when we can," Schroder said.

Illinois farmers have had a record-breaking season of bounty, said Mark Randal, press secretary for the Illinois Department of Agriculture. When they saw news coverage of the drought, they began talking about sending their plentiful reserves of hay to the Southeast. "It started right down at the farmer level — farmers calling farmers, farmers calling state legislators," he said.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Wednesday, July 23, 1986

page 4A

Illinois Hay Shipments Approaching 10,000 Bales

By Safir Ahmed
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Nearly 10,000 bales of hay from Illinois have been shipped to drought-stricken areas of South Carolina and Georgia, and three more plane loads are expected to leave today, officials said.

More shipments are planned, including a trainload of hay expected to leave for Georgia this weekend with pickup points in Belleville, Okaville, Nashville and Breese, officials said.

Mia Jazo, a spokesman for the Illinois Department of Agriculture, said

that three Air Force C-141 cargo planes had left Tuesday morning from Rock Island for Georgia and that three more planes were expected to leave today from Springfield for Columbia, S.C.

The hay is being shipped to help farmers in South Carolina and Georgia feed their cattle. The hay crop in those states has been damaged by drought.

While most of the hay so far has been donated by Illinois farmers, some of it is being bought at \$50 a ton, which is slightly less than the market

price, Jazo said. Since no transportation costs are being charged, the hay will be sold to farmers in the South at the same price, Jazo said.

Reports earlier this week said hay was being priced at \$200 a bale in South Carolina. About 40 bales make up a ton, since an average size bale weighs about 50 pounds.

Michael Hardimon, an adviser with the University of Illinois' Cooperative Extension Service in St. Clair County, said that this was a good year for hay in Illinois.

"We normally have a surplus of

hay unless we have a drought," Hardimon said. "We produced some good hay this year, and there will be a whole new crop ready to be cut in about four weeks. So shipping this hay is not going to hurt anyone here."

Hardimon said that about six boxcars would be loaded at two different pickup points in Belleville. The pickup points have not been established yet, he said. Farmers interested in selling their hay for shipment on the train should call the toll-free number — (800) 225-7543 — established by the Agriculture Department.

Bellefonte News-Democrat
Thursday, July 24, 1986
page 9A

Heat takes toll on livestock as farmers line up for feed

Associated Press

Farmers drove 100 miles and lined up overnight Wednesday in Georgia for a chance at free hay to feed cattle starving in a drought that has cost farmers in the Southeast an estimated \$1.5 billion and forced water conservation measures.

Although temperatures have temporarily eased in the region after 2½ weeks of 100-degree highs, the death toll since July 1 rose to 42.

Georgia cattlemen lined up Wednesday at the Atlanta Farmers Market for a share of 40 tons of hay donated by Illinois farmers and flown in by Air Force cargo jets.

"This is our only chance to keep our cattle alive," said Sara Dockery of Royston, who drove 100 miles. "This means the cows will survive for five more days," said her husband, Franklin.

The first farmer in line was Dale Banford, of Winder, who said he arrived Tuesday night. He said he has

had to feed his 60 beef cattle apples and stale bread, and they ate leaves off trees blown down in a storm last week. "This is a short start, but it's a start," he said.

Banford was among about 40 farmers who got up to 50 bales each. Twenty-five others were turned away when the hay ran out after four hours, and some of them left their trailers behind so they would be at the head of the line Friday, when more free hay is to be distributed.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin estimated that in his state alone, farmers will need 2 million tons of hay to feed their cattle through spring.

Clouds and scattered rain kept the Southeast below 100 degrees for a second consecutive day. But Macon, Ga., came close with a high of 98. Columbia, S.C., reached only 96 Wednesday and 97 Tuesday, breaking a record string of 15 days of triple-digit temperatures.

Bellefonte News-Democrat
Sunday, July 20, 1986
page 7B

Illinois hay goes to South Carolina

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Illinois farmers donated hay to feed starving cattle in the South because they've known hard times themselves, Gov. James R. Thompson said as an Air Force "haylift" began Saturday.

The governor lent a hand to about a dozen farmers and about 40 Illinois Army and Air National Guard troops who loaded about 1,700 bales of hay onto two military cargo planes at Capital Airport.

The shipment totaling 60 tons was bound for Greenville-Spartanburg Airport in drought-stricken South Carolina. Two more shipments aboard Air Force C-141 Starlifter cargo jets were scheduled for Monday.

Thompson said he wasn't surprised at the generosity of Illinois farmers.

"These are people who have spent their whole lives trying to feed the world and battling drought, rain, hail, insects and government bureaucracy every day of their lives," Thompson said. "They can handle anything. They can handle a drought for their neighbors."

President Reagan on Friday ordered the Air Force to deliver the hay for the farmers' relief effort organized by Thompson and South Carolina Gov. Richard Riley.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Saturday, July 19, 1986
page 16C

Illinois Hay Sent South As A Gift

Post-Dispatch Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Two crews and 18-wheel trucks from the Conoco plant in Hartford were dispatched Friday to a farm in Atlanta, Ill., to pick up a load of hay destined for a drought-stricken farm near Greenville, S.C.

Sandra Fowler, spokeswoman for Conoco, said the company's volunteer effort was the result of news reports describing the plight of Tom Trantham, a farmer in South Carolina whose dairy cattle were starving because the drought and heat had killed local feed crops.

Robert Polley, a farmer in Atlanta, Ill., had agreed to donate 700 bales of hay to help Trantham but could find no way to get it to South Carolina.

Fowler said a co-worker in her Houston public relations office for Conoco had seen stories about the dilemma on ABC and wondered aloud if the company could help.

"We thought it was a great idea," Fowler said. "There were a lot of phone calls and boops to jump through. Trucks had to be freed from other places, drivers secured and maps routed. But we arranged it all in one morning."

She said trucks had been sent from Hartford "because of the urgency of the situation." Atlanta is about 140 miles northeast of St. Louis on Interstate 55.

Fowler acknowledged that the effort was "barely scratching the surface" of problems in the Southeast. "But it's something," she said.

Farm Belt 'haylift' bringing aid to parched S. Carolina

The Evening Post/The News and Courier July 19, Pg. 1

by ROBERT SHERMAN
and SID GAULDEN
Post-Courier Reporters

A "haylift" spearheaded by a Charleston-based Air Force transport is scheduled to arrive in the Upstate today, bringing help from the Farm Belt to drought-stricken South Carolina farmers.

And while the drought is stifling agricultural production in South Carolina, one economic analyst says food prices, with the possible exception of fresh vegetables, shouldn't be affected.

The Associated Press said President Reagan on Friday ordered the Air Force to ferry several plane-loads of hay from Illinois to save starving cattle in the drought-stricken Palmetto State.

Two C-141 Starlifter cargo jets, including one from Charleston Air Force Base, were scheduled to fly into Donalson Center near Greenville with 2,000 square bales, or 60 tons, of hay.

Capt. Buddy Gray, a base public affairs officer, said late Friday a Charleston crew was "all geared up" to airlift hay into the state. Gray said the giant transport should leave Springfield, Ill., around 11 a.m. today and arrive at Donalson about two hours later.

Danny McNeill, a spokesman for the Clemson Extension Service, said plans were being made to distribute the hay, the first of several deliveries into the state during the next week.

South Carolina weather continues to be hot and dry, and a record high temperature for the date was set Friday at Charleston International Airport when the mercury reached 101 degrees.

The National Weather Service predicts no break in the weather locally through the middle of next week, with isolated thunderstorms and highs near 100 every day.



Staff Photo by Wade Speers

Keeping track

Mike Dawson, warden-naturalist with Francis Beidler Forest, puts fresh paint on a gauge Friday in Four Holes Swamp, near Beidler forest. Dawson says the level is the lowest since recording began 10 years ago.

THE EVENING POST

Charleston, S.C.

Wednesday, July 23, 1986

Charleston Airmen Pitch In To Help

By FREDERICK HORLBECK
Post-Courier Reporter

Before dawn Tuesday, a huge plane rose from Charleston Air Force Base, turned northwest, and headed for a rendezvous with farmers in Illinois who are donating hay to farmers in the drought-parched Southeast.

The C-141 Starlifter cargo jet held seven crewmembers for whom the flight wasn't exactly just another mission. They were going to Rockford, Ill., on a mission of mercy: to airlift the hay to Dobbins Air Force Base near Marietta, Ga.

A prolonged drought and heat wave have seared the Southeast, threatening livestock, hurting crops, and lowering water tables. The Air Force and the Illinois farmers say they hope that airlifting hay to afflicted farmers will help.

Sgt. Greg B. Peterson, 25, a loadmaster, said he asked to go on the mission "because it's something that helps the farmers, and I'm from a small farm in Minnesota."

For the flight engineer, Sgt. Paul M. Trenback, the trip meant helping people rather than just carrying cargo. "It's kind of nice to actually get out there ... and actually help people out," he said.

The plane, piloted by Capt. Mark W. Rolle, was the third of four Charleston-based planes to carry hay to South Carolina and Georgia. A fourth C-141 followed with another 20 tons destined for Marietta. The hay will be distributed today free of charge at the State Farmers Market in Atlanta.

After loading 46,300 pounds of hay at Greater Rockford Airport, the Air Force crew flew to Georgia in their olive-green plane. There, Tommy Irvin, commissioner of

the state Department of Agriculture, helped heap bales onto tractor-trailers as crewmembers unloaded the plane.

"The pastures are parched," Irvin said afterwards, his collar undone, his face and shirt wet with perspiration in the hot sun. "There isn't much else to say."

Georgia farmers have suffered about \$200 million in crop and livestock losses during a six-month drought, said Christine Thompson, a spokesman for the state agricultural department.

U.S. NEWS

August 4, 1986

Southeast's drought rages across seven states, raising political temperatures

When rain finally comes, farms may be fewer



Hay is sent in from the Midwest, but stunted crops may force many like Mackey Scott to quit farming

Aiken, S.C.
 ■ Mackey Scott surveyed brown, stunted cornstalks crackling in the breeze and wilted soybean fields shimmering under the harsh sun of the South's worst drought in a century. "This is the final blow," he declared. "I'm getting out."

He won't be alone. Nature, in one of its cruel faces, promises to deliver the *coup de grâce* to thousands of Southern farmers who already were endangered by the economics of the 1980s that depressed commodity prices and land values while leaving rural America buried in debt.

Appeals for federal aid will be answered, but it appears that Washington's help likely will only prolong the agony of a shakeout in agriculture that has been going on for years. The South has 41 percent fewer farms than there were in 1964. Thirty percent of the farmers in South Carolina began the growing season with financial problems.

"Drought conditions will force farmers who might have made it in another year to be pushed over the brink into disaster," says agronomist James Miller of the University of Georgia.

While the drought has been devastating to the 374,600 farms in a seven-state region stretching from Virginia to Florida and Ala-

bama, it has had no significant impact on the national agricultural economy and may end up benefiting some sectors of the country. Still, people are hurting, and the Reagan administration is going out of its way not to appear callous in an election year.

Though it may be weeks or months before an accurate assessment of the financial damage from the heat wave and five-month drought is available, the cost in lost crops, burned pastures, dead cattle and chickens, and distress sales of livestock is estimated at more than \$1 billion.

Over all, however, the \$18 billion

cash value of Southern agriculture totals only 12.5 percent of the nation's farm receipts. With favorable weather portending bumper crops in the Midwest, the loss of corn, soybean and wheat acreage in the South will have little impact on grocers' shelf prices. The exception: Prices for chickens and eggs already are up because of thousands of heat deaths in henhouses in Alabama, Georgia and North and South Carolina, which produce 39 percent of the nation's broilers.

Nationally, good crops at a time when exports are falling add up to so much surplus grain that new storage bins must be built. Consequently, the loss of several thousand Southern farmers from a national total of 2.2 million will help decrease the country's overall capacity to produce food, which in turn will boost the outlook for surviving growers and producers in other parts of the U.S.

The theories of macroeconomics offer no solace to farmers who face the crisis of their lives, such as Mackey Scott, 58, of Aiken County in South Carolina. He stands to lose most of the \$200,000 he invested in 650 acres of soybeans, wheat, corn and cotton. He reaped half his wheat crop but will be lucky to harvest a fourth of his withered soybean

CENTURY'S MAJOR DROUGHTS

Although this summer's drought in the Southeast is as intense as any other in this century, it doesn't yet rank as one of the worst in terms of duration and the number of people affected. Climatologists note that several droughts have lasted for years, among them—

Great Plains	1931 till 1941
Great Plains	1952 till 1957
New England	1961 till 1966
North Central Plains	1976 and 1977
California	1976 till 1978

USNAWA—Basic data: National Climatic Data Center

DROUGHT

plants. As for his tiny, deformed and diseased ears of corn, Scott says: "We won't waste money trying to harvest any of it."

Agricultural-extension agents in South Carolina and Georgia report that some pastures have been grazed so short and so intensely that it may take them two years or longer to recover when the drought is over. Cattle and pork producers say that the extreme heat has disrupted normal reproductive cycles and will mean fewer cattle and pigs coming onto market next year.

Stock ponds throughout the Southeast are drying up, and cattle sink up to their knees in the mud when they go to drink. "We may have to start buying water by the gallon, like gasoline," worries Wesley Chandler, a longtime farmer in northeastern Georgia.

"A lot of promises"

The political structure, in many farmers' view, has been slow to rise to the crisis. The federal government has been petitioned to declare all or parts of Georgia, Florida, Alabama and North and South Carolina disaster areas, which would make low-interest loans available to farmers. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng responded by shortening the time to process the petitions, setting up a toll-free hot line for farmers and permitting livestock to graze on land set aside for conservation.

Farmers weren't appeased. "I'm hearing a lot of promises, but I'm not seeing a lot of action," says Thomas Mercer, a farmer from Wheeler County, Ga. The prospect of low-interest loans has little appeal to debt-ridden producers. Says Donald Phillips of Ha, Ga., "I don't know how I can pay back what I already owe."

Rural despair could turn to anger against Republicans facing the voters this fall, but President Reagan moved to counter charges that his administration is insensitive to the plight of farmers. During a campaign swing through the South on July 23 and 24, Reagan viewed an airlift of Midwestern hay to Columbia for South Carolina cattle producers, said the drought "is reaching tragic proportions" and promised that his administration "stands ready to help."

Farmers in Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Iowa donated hay, which 11 Air Force C-141 cargo planes flew to the South. But the 4,000-ton cargo was mainly symbolic and became embroiled in politics. Senator Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) accused the administration of

"political haymaking" by arranging airlifts from Republican Illinois but telling Democratic Massachusetts to "get a truck" to move its 30 tons of donated hay.

While the farmers' plight is desperate, the situation in the South's towns and cities is less acute. For them, the heat wave means uncomfortable days, brown yards and high electric bills for air conditioning. Many communities have imposed restrictions on water use and a few, actual rationing. Brentwood, Tenn., threatened to cut off water to homeowners who water lawns or wash cars.

Continued drought, however, poses the possibility that water may have to be trucked into small towns where reservoirs have run dry and water tables

SCIENTISTS CAN'T PREDICT

Drought hits randomly

In Maryland, farmers say it is cloud seeding by developers conspiring to drive down land prices; farther south, they mutter about Army experiments. But to meteorologists, the Southeast's drought is weather as usual—an example of how random and unpredictable shifts in the atmosphere, which produce droughts all over the world, can be.

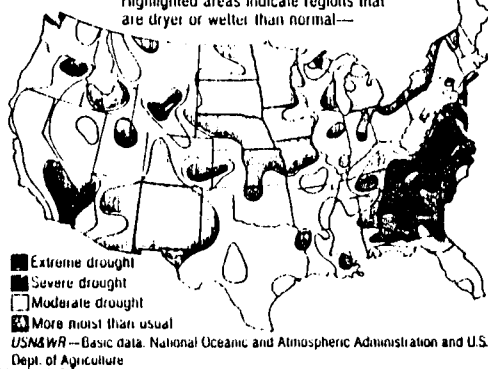
"Weather is never really 'normal,' just as there's no 'normal' family with 2.3 children," says Kenneth Bergman, a climatologist with the National Weather Service. "Every day, some record is being set somewhere in the world. This year, it just happened it was the turn of the Southeastern states."

The trouble started in December, when winter and spring storms normally spawn in the Gulf of Mexico and run on a northeasterly track over the region. But this year, the storms were pushed to the north and the west by a shift in the high-level winds of the jet stream. As a result, spring rainfall registered below normal. Then, hopes that summer thunderstorms would bring relief died when the Bermuda high slightly changed its course. Normally, this summertime high-pressure system remains offshore, pumping moisture into the Southeast and triggering thunderstorms. Once in a while, however, an arm of this system comes ashore. The downward flow of high-pressure air dries the air below and blocks out moisture. Brief shifts of the Bermuda high are normal, but this summer it has hovered over land week after week.

At this point, the region is so far behind in rainfall that the probability is less than 1 in 50 of getting the kind of above-normal rainfall that would be needed to make up for such a huge deficit by the end of the year.

WORST-HIT AREAS

Highlighted areas indicate regions that are drier or wetter than normal—



■ Extreme drought
■ Severe drought
■ Moderate drought
▨ More moist than usual

USN&WR—Basic data, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

have fallen low. The Depot Branch, a major stream through Piedmont, S.C., has been dry for two weeks, and some 500 families with dry wells have to go to the city fire station to draw water. A Carnesville, Ga., bank reports a surge in \$4,000 loans to homeowners digging new, deeper wells.

More heat ahead

Thus far, the drought hasn't dried up the Southern sense of humor. Jokes one fisherman, "It's so dry that I have to carry along a bucket of water to go fishing."

Still, farmers find little to laugh about. Cooler weather and a long, steady downpour are needed to break the drought, and the odds for that are long. Temperatures that hovered near or over 100 degrees most of July likely won't abate much during August, traditionally the hottest month. Nor does fall, normally the dry period in the calendar, offer much hope of replenishing farm soil turned to dust.

by Kenneth H. Sheets with John Collins
of the Economic Unit