



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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USDA Designates Thirty-Six Counties in Indiana as Primary Natural Disaster Areas FSA Stands Ready To Assist Hoosier Farmers

Indianapolis, July 13, 2012 - Julia A. Wickard, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 36 counties in Indiana as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by extreme drought.

Those counties are:

Allen	Gibson	Marshall	St. Joseph
Carroll	Grant	Martin	Spencer
Cass	Greene	Miami	Steuben
Crawford	Howard	Noble	Sullivan
Daviess	Huntington	Orange	Vanderburgh
DeKalb	Knox	Perry	Wabash
Dubois	Kosciusko	Pike	Warrick
Elkhart	LaGrange	Posey	Wells
Fulton	Lawrence	Pulaski	Whitley

"Indiana FSA and its employees are committed to helping farmers navigate the multitude of programs that may be available in eligible counties," said Wickard. "The Summer of 2012 will not be long forgotten by those producers and their families that were negatively impacted by severe dry weather. USDA is here to assist."

Farm operators in the 19 counties listed below in Indiana also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous to the designated counties. These counties are:

Adams	Harrison	Madison	Tipton
Blackford	Jackson	Monroe	Vigo
Clay	Jasper	Owen	Washington
Clinton	Jay	Starke	White
Delaware	LaPorte	Tippecanoe	



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All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on July 12, 2012, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Recent changes in the disaster program will provide faster and more flexible assistance to farmers devastated by natural disasters. There are three significant improvements related to Secretarial disaster designations: a final rule that simplifies the process for Secretarial disaster designations and will result in a 40 percent reduction in processing time for most counties affected by disasters; a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that effectively lowers the current rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent; and a payment reduction on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands qualified for emergency haying and grazing in 2012, from 25 to 10 percent.

USDA encourages all farmers to contact their crop insurance companies and local FSA offices, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. In addition, USDA reminds livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses, including additional expenses for such things as feed purchased due to lost supplies. Additional resources to help farmers deal with drought may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

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