



Contact:

USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

USDA Resources for States and Individuals Affected by Floods within the Mississippi River Basin

Farmer and Rancher Assistance

Crop losses

- USDA is working with the States affected to determine what damages qualify for crop insurance indemnities and/or the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Producers should contact their crop insurance provider as soon as possible to report any losses or prevented planting. In order to be eligible for SURE, a producer is required to have obtained crop insurance policies or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, unless they are a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher.
- Producers who farm in the Morganza and Birds Point-New Madrid Floodways and purchased crop insurance will be eligible for crop insurance indemnities in accordance with the provisions of their crop insurance policies. Those producers who are unable to plant, but have purchased crop insurance, will be eligible for prevented planting payments in accordance with the provisions of their policies.
- More information about these programs is available at:
SURE: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>
NAP: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=nap>

Assistance to repair cropland

- USDA also can help restore damaged and flooded land. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Subject to the availability of funding, and certain other conditions, ECP can be used to assist with debris removal and repairing damaged farmland due to the breach of the levy.
- More information about this program is available at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=ecp>

Other assistance

- The USDA Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans through the Emergency Loan Program (EM) to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Producers in these counties will be eligible for these loans as soon as the county is declared a Presidential or Secretarial disaster county. Emergency loan

funds may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

- More information about this program is available at : <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl>

Nutrition Assistance

- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is monitoring the situation, working with Federal, affected State and non-government organization partners regarding disaster food assistance requests and providing technical assistance.
- FNS provides food assistance to those in need in areas affected by a disaster. This Federal assistance is in addition to that provided by State and local governments.
- USDA provides disaster food assistance in three ways:
 - Provides foods to State agencies for distribution to shelters and other mass feeding sites;
 - Provides food to State agencies for distribution directly to households in need in certain limited situations;
 - Authorizes State agencies to issue Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) benefits.
- More information is available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/disasters/disaster.htm>

Rural Housing Assistance

- Rural Development will work with existing individual and community borrowers in rural communities that have been affected by a natural disaster to help them with their loans. With respect to loans guaranteed by Rural Development, borrowers should initially contact their lender for assistance.
- For more information go to: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/disasters/disassistance.html>
- Individuals are encouraged to contact FEMA for their immediate needs. Rural Development regularly provides FEMA with information regarding vacant units in multi-family housing complexes financed by the agency, and following a Presidential disaster declaration, FEMA can assist with placement and vouchers to cover short-term rental costs. Housing and business assistance programs are available over the longer term to help finance repair and replacement of homes and businesses.

For additional information, please visit www.usda.gov and click on emergency preparedness and disaster response on the main page.

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