

## **FEATURE - USDA ASSISTS FLOOD RECOVERY IN ILLINOIS**

INTRO: U.S. Department of Agriculture programs are helping to restore fields and levees damaged by this year's Midwest storms and floods. The U-S-D-A's Bob Ellison has more. (1:51)

LEVEES, TOWNS AND FARM FIELDS WERE DAMAGED AFTER THIS SPRING'S STORMS AND FLOODS IN THE MIDWEST. FARMERS NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ILLINOIS SAW THEIR CROPS SUBMERGED BY THE FLOOD WATERS.

Steven Higgins, USDA NRCS: This particular field here was flooded for several weeks this Spring. As you can see the producer planted a crop, but because of the flooding it was completely destroyed and the water went down too late in time for him to replant.

THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUTLURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS ASSESSING DAMAGE AND PLANNING REPAIRS. THROUGH THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM, OR E-W-P, THE N-R-C-S IS WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ADDRESS FLOOD DAMAGE. THIS INCLUDES REPAIRING LEVEES.

Steven Hobson, USDA, NRCS: There was two breaks in the levees, and so what we did is did some engineering surveys of the site and then used that data to come up with the quantities of earth-fill that needed to be put back in here.

FLOODING ALSO AFFECTED THE TOWN OF KEITHSBURG, ILLINOIS. THROUGH E-W-P, N-R-C-S CAN PAY FOR SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF LEVEE REPAIR WITH LOCAL SPONSORS PAYING THE REMAINING COSTS.

Jason Hessman, USDA NRCS: E-W-P is going to help the residents of Keithsburg restore the levees that were damaged during the flood event in June back to their original condition to add some protection back to their village.

Mayor James Stewart, Keithsburg, Illinois: They come to us and offered us a seventy-five, twenty-five plan to help close the breaches in the levy that's quite necessary. As a small town we don't have the funding to handle that all by ourselves.

THE E-W-P HELPS PAY FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES INCLUDING FLOOD PLAIN EASEMENTS, AND RUNOFF AND SOIL EROSION PREVENTION. THE GOAL IS TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY FROM FLOODS AND DROUGHT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CONSERVATION PRACTICES CONTACT YOUR LOCAL USDA SERVICE CENTER. FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.