USDA Designates Three Arkansas Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Emergency Designation | September 08, 2020

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Emergency Support to Producers in Surrounding Counties Also Available

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8, 2020 — Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue designated three Arkansas counties as primary natural disaster areas. Producers in Arkansas, Lawrence and White counties who suffered damage and losses due to excessive rain, flash flooding, high winds and lightning that occurred from April 1 through May 30, 2020, may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) <u>emergency loans</u>.

This natural disaster designation allows FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

Producers in the contiguous Arkansas counties of Cleburne, Craighead, Desha, Faulkner, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Lonoke, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, Randolph, Sharp and Woodruff are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is April 28, 2021.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of additional programs to help farmers recover from the impacts of this disaster. FSA programs that do not require a disaster declaration include: <u>Emergency Assistance for Livestock</u>, <u>Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program</u>; <u>Emergency Conservation Program</u>; <u>Livestock Forage</u> <u>Disaster Program</u>; <u>Livestock Indemnity Program</u>; <u>Operating and Farm Ownership Loans</u>; and the <u>Tree</u> <u>Assistance Program</u>. Farmers may contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <u>farmers.gov/recover</u>.

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