

USDA Grants Branstad's Request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation

DES MOINES – The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) today granted Gov. Branstad's request for a Secretarial disaster designation. The declaration applies to 27 Iowa counties that were affected by severe storms, excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding, hail, high winds, lightning, tornadoes, landslides, mudslides, excessive heat and drought during the 2011 crop year. Thirty-three contiguous counties are also covered by the designation.

The 27 counties included in this declaration are:

Clarke	Jones	Mahaska	Montgomery	Van Buren
Davis	Keokuk	Marshall	Page	Wapello
Decatur	Lee	Mills	Polk	Washington
Fremont	Linn	Monona	Tama	Wayne
Henry	Louisa	Monroe	Taylor	Woodbury
Jefferson	Lucas			

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, an additional 33 counties were named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Adams	Cedar	Dubuque	Jasper	Pottawattamie
Appanoose	Cherokee	Grundy	Johnson	Poweshiek
Benton	Clinton	Hardin	Madison	Ringgold
Black Hawk	Crawford	Harrison	Marion	Story
Boone	Dallas	Ida	Muscatine	Union
Buchanan	Delaware	Iowa	Plymouth	Warren
Cass	Des Moines	Jackson		

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operations in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Disaster assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Farmers in the eligible counties have eight months from the date of Secretarial disaster declaration, Oct. 12, 2011, to apply for emergency loan assistance. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Farmers looking for more information are encouraged to visit their local FSA offices.

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