



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
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USDA Designates 49 Ohio Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas Decision Allows Farmers to Apply for USDA Assistance

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Sept. 15, 2011 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated forty-nine Ohio counties as primary agricultural natural disaster areas, making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The following counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas, due to excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding, high winds, excessive heat and tornadoes that occurred from February 2, 2011, through July 31, 2011. Those counties are:

Adams	Fairfield	Jackson	Morgan	Summit
Allen	Franklin	Lake	Muskingum	Seneca
Ashtabula	Gallia	Lawrence	Noble	Trumbull
Athens	Geauga	Licking	Ottawa	Tuscarawas
Belmont	Greene	Logan	Paulding	Van Wert
Butler	Guernsey	Lorain	Perry	Vinton
Champaign	Hamilton	Lucas	Portage	Warren
Clinton	Hardin	Medina	Putnam	Washington
Coshocton	Highland	Mercer	Sandusky	Wayne
Crawford	Hocking	Monroe	Stark	

Counties eligible because they are contiguous to those listed above are:

Ashland	Darke	Henry	Meigs	Ross
Auglaize	Defiance	Holmes	Miami	Scioto
Brown	Delaware	Huron	Montgomery	Shelby
Carroll	Erie	Jefferson	Morrow	Union
Clark	Fayette	Knox	Pickaway	Wood
Clermont	Fulton	Madison	Pike	Wyandot
Columbiana	Hancock	Mahoning	Preble	
Cuyahoga	Harrison	Marion	Richland	

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas September 7, 2011, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's 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 emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.