October 3, 2019

The Honorable Duane Peters
Brazos County Judge
Brazos County Courthouse
200 S Texas Ave Ste. 332
Bryan, TX 77803-3999

Dear Judge Peters:

We have received notice from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that your county has been designated eligible to apply for low-interest emergency disaster loans based on damages and losses caused by excessive moisture and flooding occurring September 1, 2019 and continuing. Thirteen Texas counties have been declared primary natural disaster areas. There are an additional forty-five other Texas counties designated as a contiguous counties.

The Secretary has notified the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to immediately make emergency loans available to eligible applicants in your county. Your local FSA office will have the details on this program.

In addition, the Small Business Administration (SBA), in an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides low-interest federal disaster loans to eligible small businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers in counties that have received a disaster declaration from the Secretary of Agriculture.

I have enclosed a copy of the information provided by the USDA. If you have any questions, please call Debra Rivier-Harris at (512) 424-7835.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM®
Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services
Texas A&M University System

WNK:drh
ENCLOSURES
SECRETARIAL DISASTER DECLARATION S4534

Overview

A Background

On September 6, 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture designated 13 Texas counties as primary natural disaster areas. This action is based on damages and losses caused by excessive moisture and flooding occurring September 1, 2018 and continuing. The primary counties are:

Armstrong  Bowie  Burleson  Collin  Ellis  Fannin  Floyd
Grayson    Hunt    Jackson  Lipscomb  Matagorda  Red River

In addition to the above counties, 45 other Texas counties are named as contiguous where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance, pursuant to section 321 (a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Those counties are:

Brazoria  Brazos  Briscoe  Calhoun  Carson  Cass  Colorado
Cooke     Crosby  Dallas  Delta   Denton  Dickens  Donley
Franklin  Gray    Hale    Hemphill  Henderson  Hill    Hopkins
Johnson   Kaufman  Lamar  Lavaca  Lee    Lubbock  Milam
Morris    Motley  Navarro  Ochiltree  Potter  Rains  Randall
Roberts   Robertson  Rockwall  Swisher  Tarrant  Titus  Van Zandt
Victoria  Washington  Wharton

Also, in accordance with section 321 (a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent State that are contiguous to one or more of the designated Texas counties, are named as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance. For this designation, the affected States and counties are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposal Date</th>
<th>Distribution (6-RMH/09/16/2019)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2020</td>
<td>County Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/16/2019</td>
<td>6-RMH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

**B Application Deadline**

EM Loan applications will be received through **May 6, 2020** for production and physical losses.

**2 Action**

**A Exceptions for Application Deadlines**

County Offices shall thoroughly review Exhibit 1.

**B Determining Security Values**

For the purpose of determining loan security values for loan applications, the beginning date of the incidence period is **September 1, 2018**.

**C District Director’s and Farm Loan Manager’s Responsibilities**

District Directors and Farm Loan Managers shall follow instructions according to 3-FLP (Rev. 2), and FmHA Instruction 1945-A for emergency loan applicability.

The Farm Loan Manager shall notify borrowers of Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) availability in accordance with handbook 5-FLP paragraph 42.

**D Public Announcements**

Special emphasis will be placed on informing the farm community through public announcements and arranging and conducting meetings with local Agricultural lenders and leaders.

**3 Contact Point**

**A Inquires**

If there are questions concerning this notice, contact the Conservation or Farm Loan Program Division.
Subject: Secretarial Disaster Declaration S4534

Please carefully review the notice listing the primary and contiguous counties determined eligible by the Secretary and the Emergency Preparedness and Programs Branch for emergency (EM) loans effective September 6, 2019.

This declaration is coded S4534, and EM loan applications will be received through May 16, 2020. For the purpose of determining loan security values for loan applications, the beginning date of the incidence period is September 1, 2018.

Please proceed to take the appropriate notification and coordination actions required by Handbook 1-DIS and 7CFR part 759.