



News Release

Latawnya Dia
202-720-7962
Latawnya.Dia@wdc.usda.gov

USDA Designates Eight Counties in Florida as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2017 — In response to a request from Debby Folsom, Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) acting State Executive Director in Florida, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 8 counties in Florida as primary natural disaster areas due to losses and damages caused by a recent drought. Those counties are:

Charlotte	Glades	Highlands	Osceola
DeSoto	Hardee	Okeechobee	Polk

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in **Florida** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are:

Brevard	Lake	Orange	Sarasota
Hendry	Lee	Palm Beach	Sumter
Hillsborough	Manatee	Pasco	
Indian River	Martin	St. Lucie	

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on May 10, 2017, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for FSA’s emergency (EM) loans, 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 EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Other FSA programs that can provide assistance, but do not require a disaster declaration, include [Operating and Farm Ownership Loans](#); the [Emergency Conservation Program](#); [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](#); [Livestock Indemnity Program](#); [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#); and the [Tree Assistance Program](#). Interested farmers may contact their local USDA service centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and

other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA news releases are available on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov via the "Newsroom" link.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer.