



Farm Service Agency

200 North High Street, Rm. 540

Columbus, Ohio, 43215

Voice 614.255.2527

Email: Christina.Reed@oh.usda.gov

Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

News Release

Contact:

Christina Reed, (614) 255-2527

Christina.Reed@oh.usda.gov

SECRETARIAL DISASTER DESIGNATION DECLARED IN PENNSYLVANIA DUE TO FROST, EXCESSIVE RAIN, AND A TORNADO, AFFECTS ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO

Decision Allows Farmers to Apply for USDA Assistance

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Aug. 21, 2013 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated one Ohio county as 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).

Erie County was designated in Pennsylvania as primary natural disaster areas, caused by frost, excessive rain, and a tornado that occurred between May 28, 2013, and July 12, 2013. **Ashtabula county**, in Ohio, is also eligible because it is contiguous.

The county listed above was designated as natural disaster areas on **August 7, 2013**, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources and meet eligibility requirements. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all 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.

Additional programs available to assist farmers include the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance, and the Noninsured Crop Disaster 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>.