



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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USDA Designates 13 Counties in Arizona as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 2009 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 13 counties in Arizona as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought that occurred during the period of January 1, through Dec. 31, 2009.

The 13 counties are:

Apache	Greenlee	Pima	Cochise
Maricopa	Pinal	Coconino	Mohave
Santa Cruz	Gila	Navajo	Yavapai
Graham			

"President Obama and I understand these conditions caused severe damage to the area and serious harm to farms in Georgia and we want to help," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This action will provide help to hundreds of farmers who suffered significant production losses to warm season grasses."

Farm operators in La Paz and Yuma counties in Arizona also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

Farm operators in the counties listed below in the adjacent states of **California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

California: San Bernardino

Colorado: Montezuma

Nevada: Clark and Lincoln

New Mexico: Catron, Cibola, Grant, Hidalgo, McKinley and San Juan

Utah: Kane, San Juan and Washington

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas Dec. 3, 2009, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (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 variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, 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 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 Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> via the "News and Events" link.

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