

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- According to 7CFR 1945-A:
 - Secretarial disaster designation must be requested by Governor, authorized representative, or Indian Tribal Council
 - Request is direct to Secretary of Agriculture

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process
 - Governor's Office is notified by county judge, or other local entity of disaster conditions need for disaster designation.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process (continued)
 - Governor makes a request in writing to Secretary of Agriculture within 3 months of the ending date of natural disaster.
 - ✓ Governor's office should also concurrently send **FAX** copy of the letter sent to the Secretary.
 - ✓ Any supporting information to Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director (SED).

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process (continued)
 - Request from Governor's office is acknowledged by letter (to Governor) from the Office of the Under Secretary (**FFAS**).
 - Request from Governor is submitted to FSA:
 - Process of assembling required loss information and other documentation **Damage Assessment Reports (DARs)** begins.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process (continued)
- FSA immediately notifies FSA, SED
 - SED instructs all county offices named in the Governor's request to:
 - Complete DARs
 - Conduct County Emergency Board (CEB) meeting
 - Approve DAR

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process (continued)
- FSA immediately notifies FSA, SED
 - SED instructs all county offices named in the Governor's request to: (continued)
 - Submit to FSA State Office:
 - DAR
 - CEB Minutes

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process (continued)
 - Information required on DAR includes:
 - List of major crops planted in the county in disaster year
 - Number of acres planted
 - Acres not planted
 - Disaster year yield

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Steps in Process (continued)
 - SED prepares comments and recommendations
 - State Emergency Board (SEB) reviews, approves DARs, and submits DARs and meeting minutes to FSA Headquarters.
 - FSA Headquarters reviews information and processes package for final clearance through Under Secretary's office and final approval and signature by Secretary.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- Information Needed to Process Disaster Request
 - Damage Assessment Reports (DARs) signed by the county and State Emergency Board (CEB) and (SEB) Chairpersons.
 - CEB and SEB meeting minutes.
 - Previous 5-year average production for the major crops listed on the DARs.
 - Previous 3-year average prices for the major crops on the DARs.
 - FSA SED - Comments and recommendations.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

NOTE:

If the DARs do not indicate a 30-percent or greater loss countywide in a single enterprise, which is a major crop (or other production enterprise) for the county, the FSA conducts a survey to determine, among other factors, the number of farmers in the county who were affected by the disaster and are unable to obtain financing at lending institutions other than the FSA. The Secretary has the discretionary authority to approve a county for emergency assistance provided the survey documents that at least one producer in the county was unable to obtain financing elsewhere.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- **Assistance to Producers after Secretarial Approval**
 - ✓ If the decision is made to designate counties a disaster area, family-sized farm operators in both **primary** and **contiguous** counties will be eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the FSA. Each application will be considered on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, repayment ability, and other eligibility requirements.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- **How "contradictions" are managed or monitored.**
 - ▶ **EXAMPLE:** Declaring disaster in a given State for drought and excessive moisture.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- How "contradictions" are managed or monitored (continued):

- ✓ When a series of unusual and adverse weather conditions or natural phenomena occur in a county within the same crop year, and it is not possible for the Secretary to assess the damages, in order to determine qualifying criteria, until the end of such series or the crop year, a determination will be made that a natural disaster has occurred, and the county shall be considered for both physical property and production losses due to a single natural disaster.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- How "contradictions" are managed or monitored (continued):

Q. Is there a formal lifting of declaration when conditions improve?

A. No. When a natural disaster continues beyond the date on which an Secretarial determination is made, and when there are continuing losses or damages caused by that disaster, the Administrator will extend the incidence period and the termination date for such specified period as the Administrator finds appropriate, but not in excess of 60 days.

Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

- How "contradictions" are managed or monitored (continued):

Q. Noted that, sometimes, we will determine data to be insufficient to make designations, do these requests remain active or require resubmission?

A. The request remains active. We **DEFER** the request until such time as we receive sufficient information to make an eligibility requirement.

Presented by EPPB: Ray McIlwain Mabelene Collins

Other Livestock Emergency Programs

- CRP emergency haying and grazing
- CRP managed haying and grazing (different by state)
- Ad Hoc Disaster Bills often contain Livestock related emergency programs (Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Feed Program)
- USDA State Block Grant Program for Drought related impacts on livestock

Geographic Information System tool

- FSA has GIS technology to map and track any disease or emergency livestock impacts

Thank you!