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## **USDA Provides \$179,000 to Four Mississippi Counties to Rehabilitate Farmland Damaged by Tornadoes**

JACKSON, MS, July 15, 2009 – USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Mississippi State Executive Director Michael R. Sullivan announced that farmers in four Mississippi Counties will receive approximately \$179,000 in Emergency Conservation Program funds to repair farmland damaged by tornadoes that happened in 2008 and 2009.

The money will be used to remove farmland debris and restore fences; that were damaged by tornadoes in Jones, Simpson, Lafayette and Winston Counties.

"We are committed to helping farmers restore farmland, fences and conservation measures devastated by disasters, and to help stimulate the rural economies affected by these disasters," said Sullivan. "FSA has always worked hand in hand with producers during disasters, and we will continue to do so throughout the recovery process."

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must have created conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- impair or endanger the land;
- materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- represent unusual damage that, except for wind erosion, is not likely to recur in the same area; and
- be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

All of the above conditions must be met for land to be eligible. Conservation issues that existed before the disaster are not eligible for cost-share assistance. FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage.

A national map with a visual depiction of the affected counties and disaster types is on the FSA website at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/ecpmap3.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ecpmap3.pdf).

The remainder of these funds will be allocated as additional requests are processed. For further information on eligibility requirements as well as applications, producers may visit their local FSA county office or online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.