



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farmers
Home
Administration

Washington
D.C.
20250

FmHA AN No. 2633 (1945)
August 20, 1992

SUBJECT: Request for Expeditious Submission of Damage Assessment Reports (DAR's) and Supporting Data to Process Governor's Requests for Secretarial Disaster Designations

TO: State Directors, FmHA

ATTN: Chiefs, Farmer Programs

PURPOSE/INTENDED EFFECT:

The purpose of this Administrative Notice (AN) is to clarify the provisions of FmHA Instruction 1945-A and the USDA Emergency Operations Handbook (EOH), and require that priority be given to the processing of disaster designation requests even though it may appear that only a few emergency (EM) loans will be made in the requested counties. This is an ongoing policy which you should explain to your staff and the USDA State Food and Agriculture Council (SFAC).

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN:

This AN replaces FmHA AN No. 2385 (1945) dated October 16, 1991, on this subject which will expire August 31, 1992.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

When the Secretary designates a county(ies) as a primary-county natural disaster area, all surrounding counties are named as contiguous counties and FmHA EM loans are made available to eligible family farmers in the primary and contiguous counties.

It is incumbent upon FmHA State Directors to work closely with ASCS State Officials as outlined in the EOH, the SFAC and Local Food and Agriculture Councils to ensure that the Secretarial disaster designation process is given priority consideration, consistent with present policies and authorizations.

EXPIRATION DATE: August 31, 1993

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Preceding FmHA
Instruction 1945-A



Farmers Home Administration is an Equal Opportunity Lender.
Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:
Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

As you know, since February 1988, ASCS emergency assistance programs are being administered without our designation program. However, you should remind the ASCS State Officials and the SFAC that we need DAR's on all counties requested by the Governor in order to process a designation request(s) for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Whether or not a Governor(s) submits a written disaster designation request, it is the responsibility of the State Director(s) to notify the National Office of any adverse weather conditions occurring in the State, and submit a report to the Administrator on the extent of losses.

ADMINISTRATOR'S PHYSICAL LOSS NOTIFICATIONS

When it is believed that severe physical losses only were sustained by one or more farmers in an affected county(ies), the State Director will request the Administrator to make EM physical loss loans available. FmHA Instruction 1945-A, Section 1945.19(c)(1), requires that the State Director's request must be made to the Administrator within 3 months after the disaster occurs. No Damage Assessment Report (DAR) is required.

SECRETARIAL NATURAL DISASTER DESIGNATIONS

A Governor's request to the Secretary of Agriculture for a disaster designation must be made in writing and received by the Secretary of Agriculture within 3 months after the disaster(s) occurs. Even though the request may be based on damages and losses to a single crop, multiple crops or all crops in a county(ies), the designation will be made on the basis of a calculated 30 percent or greater loss in a single crop. State Directors are requested to work closely with their Governor's representative(s) to ensure that the designation requests are properly submitted prior to the end of the 3-month deadline. There is no provision in regulations for a waiver of the 3-month deadline.

Properly completed and signed DAR's are required after a Governor(s) requests a disaster designation for an affected county(ies). The DAR(s) should list only the major crop(s) grown in the county(ies). Also, the DAR(s) must be obtained as soon as possible, reviewed by the State Office for completeness, and expeditiously submitted to the National Office with State and Local FAC minutes and the State Director's comments and recommendations.

The State Director will also submit to the National Office the 5-year crop yields and 3-year average prices (for the years immediately preceding the disaster year) for the major

26 33(1945)

crop(s) produced in the requested county(ies) and any additional supportive information. Yield and price data will be used to establish the normal and disaster year's dollar value of the affected crop(s) for use in calculating countywide production losses.

In order to expedite the processing of Secretarial designation requests, we request that all DAR's and supporting information be submitted by overnight mail, and additional information requested by the National Office be obtained as soon as possible and sent by telefax on FTS: (703) 305-2045 or Commercial: (703) 305-2045, or by express mail to the National Office, Attention: Farmer Programs, Emergency Designation Staff.

We assure you the Secretary appreciates your efforts in helping carry out the emergency disaster designation functions of the Department.



LA VERNE AUSMAN
Administrator