



FmHA AN No. 2385 (1945)  
October 16, 1991

SUBJECT: Request for Expeditious Submission of Damage Assessment Reports (DAR's) and Supporting Data to Process Governors' 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 needs to be explained to your staff and the USDA State Food and Agriculture Council (SFAC).

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN:

No previous AN on this subject.

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 proper consideration, consistent with present policies and authorizations.

EXPIRATION DATE: August 31, 1992

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:  
Preceding FmHA  
Instruction 1945-A



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.

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.

A Governor's request to the Secretary of Agriculture for a disaster designation must be made within 3 months after the disaster(s) occurs. The request may be based on damages and losses to a single crop, multiple crops or all crops in a county(ies). 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.

Properly completed and signed DAR's are required after a Governor(s) requests a disaster designation for an affected county(ies). The DAR(s) must be obtained as soon as possible, reviewed by the State Office for completeness, and expeditiously submitted to the National Office along with 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 each commodity (crop) 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 crops for use in calculating countywide production losses.

In order to expedite the processing of Secretarial designation requests, we are hereby requesting 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: 245-7534 or Com: (202) 245-7534, or by express mail to the National Office, Attention: Farmer Programs, Emergency Designation Staff.

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



LA VERNE AUSMAN  
Administrator

Sent by electronic mail on 10/24/91 by GSS at 4:15 p.m.  
State Directors should notify other personnel as necessary.