

## Disaster Relief Available for Alaska Farmers and Ranchers

Farmers and ranchers who suffered agricultural damages due to flooding that occurred between October 27, 2013 and October 28, 2013 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough may be eligible for low-interest, federal loans to help recoup losses. Areas that were contiguous to the affected areas and are eligible for assistance are the Anchorage, Kodiak Island, Lake and Peninsula, Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs and the following Census Areas: Bethel and Valdez-Cordova.

A disaster designation M1461 recently announced by President Obama triggered the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency Loan Program (EM). FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices until September 16, 2014.

Applicants must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss due to the disaster named in the designation. An applicant's farm must be family-sized. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. The federal government does not intend to compete with private business, so applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance their needs.