



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA  
Farm Service Agency

FSA State Office  
6311 Ridgewood Rd Suite W100  
Jackson, MS 39211

Latrice Hill – Public Relations & Outreach Specialist  
[Latrice.hill@ms.usda.gov](mailto:Latrice.hill@ms.usda.gov)

## USDA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL TORNADO DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR MISSISSIPPI FARMERS

**(Jackson, MS) May 6, 2010**, — The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has disaster emergency assistance for eligible and qualifying producers affected by recent tornadoes, according to Michael R. Sullivan, Mississippi FSA State Executive Director.

“Three additional Mississippi counties have been named to the list of counties eligible to apply for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP),” Sullivan said.

ECP is a program is administered by FSA’s state and county committees. Locally-elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which is authorized at the national office of FSA. Eligible producers will receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of the approved practices. Eligible limited resource producers will receive cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the cost of approved practices. Agricultural land practices can include: debris removal, grading, shaping, re-leveling and restoring fencing. Approved practices may vary in each county depending on the local county committee’s disaster request.

For a producer’s land to be eligible, the disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and affect its productive capacity. Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

According to Sullivan, nine FSA county offices have been given the authority to implement the program under various practices: Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Choctaw, Holmes, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Tippah and Yazoo. Producers in these counties may visit their local FSA Office to inquire on which practices are available in their counties and sign up for the program.

FSA has also received an Administrative designation to offer emergency farm loans. The Emergency Farm Loan Program (EM) provides loans to cover losses for designated disasters. The loans are made to qualified farmers who cannot obtain credit from other lenders in the local area. An Administrative Declaration on assistance for physical losses has been issued for the following counties: Attala, Choctaw, Clay, Holmes, Issaquena, Monroe, Oktibbeha and Yazoo. In addition 18 Mississippi counties are named contiguous disaster areas where eligible family farmers may also qualify for FSA emergency physical loss assistance. Visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ms> for a listing of those eligible counties.

Another disaster program is the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. Farmers are encouraged to contact the local office for detailed information.

“We want Mississippi farmers to know USDA is committed to helping our farmers recover from this disaster,” Sullivan said. “Please visit your local FSA office for more information.”

##