USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
Illinois State Office
3500 Wabash Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62711-8287

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July 16, 2012
Reply to: FLP: rz

Honorable Jerry Costello
U. S. Representative, District 12
144 Lincoln Place Court, Suite 4
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Congressman Costello:

Effective July 12, 2012, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, declared counties in Kentucky natural disaster areas due to losses caused by recent severe and extreme drought occurring from June 19, 2012 and continuing. Counties affected by this declaration are as follows:

Illinois Contiguous Counties (6)

Alexander	Gallatin	Hardin	Massac	Pope	Pulaski

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each application on its own merit, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Emergency loan applications will be received through March 12, 2013. Applications pending on the above date may be processed and completed. The disaster declaration number is **S3277**.

For the purpose of determining loan security values for loan applications, the beginning date of the incident period is June 19, 2012.

Sincerely,

Doug Bailey
for Scherrie V. Giamanco
State Executive Director
Illinois State FSA Office