



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 Missouri natural disaster areas due to losses caused by recent severe and extreme drought occurring from January 1, 2012 and continuing. Counties affected by this declaration are as follows:

**Illinois Contiguous Counties (4)**

Alexander      Jackson      Randolph      Union

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 **S3279**.

For the purpose of determining loan security values for loan applications, the beginning date of the incident period is January 1, 2012.

Sincerely,

*Doug Bailey*

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