USDA Designates 19 Counties in Georgia as Primary Natural Disaster Area with Assistance to Producers in Florida

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2017 — In response to a request from Dianne Westmoreland, Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) acting State Executive Director in Georgia, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 19 counties in Georgia as primary natural disaster areas due to losses and damages caused by freeze that occurred from March 15, 2017, through March 18, 2017. Those counties are:

- Appling
- Bacon
- Berrien
- Brantley
- Atkinson
- Camden
- Charlton
- Clinch
- Coffee
- Brooks
- Echols
- Jeff Davis
- Lanier
- Long
- Lowndes
- McIntosh
- Pierce
- Ware
- Wayne

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Georgia also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are:

- Ben Hill
- Colquitt
- Cook
- Glynn
- Irwin
- Liberty
- Montgomery
- Tattnall
- Telfair
- Thomas
- Tift
- Toombs
- Wheeler

Farmers and ranchers in Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and Nassau counties in Florida also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on May 3, 2017, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for FSA’s emergency (EM) loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Other FSA programs that can provide assistance, but do not require a disaster declaration, include Operating and Farm Ownership Loans; the Emergency Conservation Program; Livestock...
Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA service centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA news releases are available on FSA’s website at www.fsa.usda.gov via the “Newsroom” link.

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