

November 1, 2010

Dear Minnesota Producer:

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for flood assistance from agricultural producers for Minnesota counties severely impacted by the record rainfall in September. The 29 eligible counties are listed to the right and are the counties that received the federal disaster declaration.

The assistance program will offer financial assistance to help with losses incurred by the flooding. Losses may include, but are not limited to, feed and forage damages, damages to buildings or other agricultural structures, agricultural equipment losses, organic and specialty crop losses, and other related farm or ranch damages and expenditures. Expenses for clean-up and debris removal are eligible.

Applications **MUST** be postmarked no later than December 6, 2010. The applications will be reviewed and audited by MDA staff, with funds expected to be delivered in January. Due to the limited funds and the uncertainty about the number of applications, the MDA cannot estimate the level of reimbursement. After all applications are received, the MDA will calculate these amounts based on the number and size of qualified claims to determine final allocations.

Applicants will be required to provide the following information:

- 1) List of feed inventory or harvested forage losses;
  - 2) List of capital damages including fencing, agricultural structural, agricultural equipment, or other capital losses;
  - 3) List of debris removal expenses, organic and specialty crop losses and other losses or flood related expenditures;
- AND**
- 4) Original or photocopied receipts or verified estimates.

The MDA also received additional funds for the Rural Finance Authority (RFA) Disaster Loan Program. This loan program is shared with a participating local lender and might provide another option of assistance for producers. The RFA finances 45% of the loan at 0% interest rate up to \$50,000 and the local lender finances the remaining 55% at current interest rates. Contact your local lender or the RFA at 800-366-8927 for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact MDA through the Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network at 1-877-898-6326.

Sincerely,



Gene Hugoson  
Commissioner

GH: kp: ps: rk

## ELIGIBLE DISASTER COUNTIES

BLUE EARTH

BROWN

CARVER

COTTONWOOD

DODGE

FARIBAULT

FREEBORN

GOODHUE

JACKSON

LE SUEUR

LINCOLN

LYON

MARTIN

MOWER

MURRAY

NICOLLET

NOBLES

OLMSTED

PIPESTONE

REDWOOD

RICE

ROCK

SIBLEY

STEELE

WABASHA

WASECA

WATONWAN

WINONA

YELLOW MEDICINE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 2010 FLOOD DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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*For questions, contact the MDA through the Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network (MFAN).  
Call 1-877-898-6326 or email [mfan.mda@state.mn.us](mailto:mfan.mda@state.mn.us)*

**1) What is the Flood Disaster Assistance Program designed to cover?**

This program is designed to help producers in the recovery and rebuilding process by assisting with losses not reimbursed through insurance or other programs.

**2) Why aren't all counties eligible?**

The Legislature directed flood assistance only to the 29 counties that received an emergency disaster flood declaration.

**3) My primary homestead and/or livestock operation is NOT located in an eligible county, but I own or rent damaged agricultural structures or fencing in a disaster county. Am I eligible to claim assistance?**

Yes. However, you must report the location of the damage, a description of the event, and your corresponding expenditures to replace fencing, agricultural buildings, or grain bins. Include the required documentation.

**4) My homestead and/or livestock operation IS located in an eligible county, but I purchase all or the majority of my forage. Am I eligible to claim assistance?**

Maybe. You can only claim assistance if you suffered a direct feed/forage loss on lands that you own or rent or suffered loss of feed/forages you had in storage that were damaged by the flood.

**5) I suffered feed/forage losses, but I did NOT have to purchase supplemental forage. Am I still eligible to claim the assistance?**

Yes. All losses to inventory will be treated equally regardless of end use or purpose.

**6) I am a certified organic or specialty crop producer. Is there any assistance available?**

Yes. If you had organic, certified organic, or specialty crop (i.e. fruit and vegetable) acres impacted by the flood and need assistance please call MFAN.

**7) What if I have shared equipment or structures, or a business with multiple owners, what do I do?**

MDA only wants one application per item or entity. If this is easily explained, include a statement in your application. If not, contact MFAN to clarify how to include this on your application.

**8) What is meant by agricultural structures?**

Agricultural structures are any engineered or constructed items that are of a farm or ranch nature. This includes farm or ranch buildings, grain and feed storage, manure handling systems, and other similar structures. Homes are not included in this category. Damage to homes should be directed towards your homeowners' insurance company or to the appropriate federal or state agencies offering assistance.

**9) What are examples of other disaster related expenses?**

(1) If you had an adulterated crop that was destroyed and you carried federal crop insurance, you are eligible. (2) If you rented pumping equipment in order to protect your buildings/livestock, you are eligible.

**10) I am a farmer that had my culvert damaged and requires replacement. Am I eligible?**

Yes, if repair expenses are the sole responsibility of the landowner. Landowners should first contact the DNR or Soil and Water Conservation District representative to review plans and identify other assistance available. Culverts or property entries that fall under township, county, or state jurisdiction are not eligible.

**11) What is meant by a verified estimate?**

It is a written statement with loss description and cost estimate that is signed by an insurance adjuster, lender, farm business management advisor or other qualified third party individual that has agriculture experience. Include verifier's contact information, business card or formal letterhead.

**12) What is the best way to submit receipts with this application?**

*If original receipt* – submit receipts unmarked and clear. Do not staple or tape receipt on to the application or extra pages. \*Receipts will not be returned\*

*If photocopy* – information should be clearly visible. Sign the page and add extra remarks if needed. Keep original receipts available, as they may be called on to verify information.

**13) Can I include other pages that describe my losses?**

Yes. Please feel free to add supplemental pages to explain losses. The better you can explain the loss, the easier it will be to make an eligibility decision.

(example: Overland flooding led to \_\_\_ feet of fencing to be damaged which led to an out-of-pocket expenditure of \$ \_\_\_ for replacement.)

**14) I had damage from this summer’s tornado, am I eligible for assistance?**

No. This aid is only available for losses due to the September flood damage. If you have tornado losses you may be eligible for Rural Finance Authority (RFA) low interest disaster loans. Please contact RFA at 800-366-8927 or your local lending institution.

**15) Can I fax or email the completed application?**

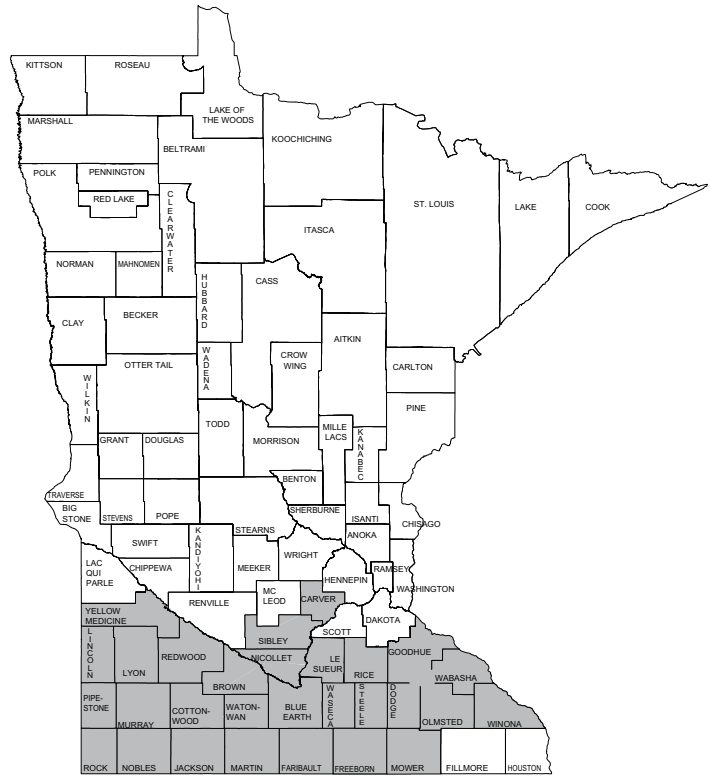
No. Applications require original signatures to be eligible. Completed applications should be sent in a timely manner to avoid the last minute deadline. Applications must be postmarked no later than December 6, 2010.

**16) How can I be sure that MDA received my application?**

You can verify receipt of your application by contacting MFAN or sending your application via certified mail. Consider keeping a photocopy before mailing it in.

**17) When will I receive a check?**

The MDA plans to have payments mailed by January 2011. Receipt of this financial aid is taxable income and subject to a 1099 tax form.



**2010 Eligible Flood Disaster Counties**

**WHEN THE APPLICANT SIGNS THE APPLICATION THEY CERTIFY THAT:**

1. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the data in this application is true and correct and supporting documentation for the claims and assertions made within this application is available to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for its review.
2. I understand that submitting false or misleading information in connection with this application may result in the applicant being found ineligible for financial assistance. I further understand that receiving public funds as a consequence of false representations constitutes an act of fraud.
3. I understand that MDA may conduct audits, verify estimates, and conduct site inspections before or after grants are awarded.

**Applications must be postmarked no later than December 6, 2010.**



Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network (MFAN), Ph: 651-201-6326 or 877-898-6326

## 2010 Flood Disaster Assistance Program

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

I am a resident of the State of Minnesota .....  Yes  No

I own or operate agricultural lands in *Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pipestone, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona, or Yellow Medicine* county .....  Yes  No

--- If you answered "NO" to either of the above questions, you are NOT eligible for this assistance program ---

All losses normally covered by insurance are **ineligible** under this assistance program.

*The data on this form will be used to process your application for the 2010 Flood Assistance Program. Minnesota Statutes section 270C.65 requires that you provide us with your social security number, federal or state tax identification number. If you do not provide a tax I.D. number we will be unable to process your request. Supplying these numbers could result in action to collect delinquent taxes owed to the State of Minnesota. Your social security number, if provided, is private information. No one will have access to it except those permitted access 1) by law including the Minnesota Department of Revenue, 2) by your written consent, 3) by a court order or 4) by those state and department employees whose job duties require access.*

Application Deadline December 6, 2010  
Applications postmarked after  
December 6th, 2010 will NOT be accepted

Return application to:  
MN Dept. of Agriculture/Flood Assistance Program  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

THIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS TAXABLE INCOME. Please provide the Individual Name with SS# or Business Name with Tax ID # and current address of the entity receiving the aid. (please print):

Individual or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

SS# \_\_\_\_\_ State Tax ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Tax ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Also list all names of individuals who have ownership interest in entity. This information is needed in order to prevent potential double reporting of losses, in addition to ensuring compliance with payment limits.

Name 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Name 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Name 4. \_\_\_\_\_

over . . .

**NOTE: You must attach original or photocopies of the actual receipts or verified estimates to be eligible to claim this assistance.**

**Feed/Forage Loss Assistance**

Type	Description of Damage	Ton	Value	Total Value
Hay				\$
Silage				\$
Feed				\$
Pasture				\$
Other				\$
<i>Total Feed/Forage Loss</i>				\$

**Capital Repair and Replacement**

Type	Description of Damage (geographic location of fencing, ag structures, or ag equipment; description of damage; and description of repair or replacement)	Expenditure (DOLLARS)
Fencing Materials		\$
Agricultural Structures		\$
Agricultural Equipment		\$
Other Capital Expenses		\$
<i>Total Capital Repair and Replacement Loss</i>		\$

**Other Disaster Related Loss**

Type	Description of Damage, Loss, or Expense	Expenditure (DOLLARS)
Debris Removal Expense		\$
Organic/Specialty Crop Related Loss		\$
Other Disaster Related Expense *		\$
<i>Total Other Disaster Related Loss</i>		\$
<b>Grand Total Loss Claim</b>		\$

\* i.e. adulterated crop, temporary equipment rental, etc.

(Please attach extra pages if needed.)

*The MDA may conduct random audits to ensure accuracy of reporting. Those individuals found to be in violation of reporting false or misleading information will surrender their payments and could be subject to fines or penalties.*

**I certify that the above losses were not fully covered by an insurance indemnity payment or any other form of loss reimbursement. I certify that all information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.**

**X** Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_