

News Release

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USDA Designates 18 Iowa Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas *Emergency Loans, Increased Flexibilities, and Other Disaster Assistance Programs Available*

DES MOINES, Iowa, Sept. 3, 2020 — Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue designated 18 Iowa counties as primary natural disaster areas, enabling producers who suffered losses because of the recent Derecho, that occurred on August 10, 2020, to be eligible for [emergency loans](#). Additionally, Perdue reminded producers about the suite of disaster assistance programs available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including program flexibilities and a special signup through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

“The extent of damage to crops, equipment, facilities, and the ag sector as a whole from this storm is devastating,” said Secretary Perdue. “President Trump has already demonstrated his support for Iowa by immediately approving Iowa’s disaster declaration. He is committed to ensuring Iowa’s farmers get back on their feet and continue to produce the food and fuel America needs to thrive. The recovery process is in full swing, and USDA is working diligently to expedite financial and technical support for Iowa farmers and livestock producers who have suffered unprecedented losses. We are standing by to expand this designation as we learn more about the full impacts of the Derecho.”

Emergency Loans

These natural disaster designations allow the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. [Emergency loans](#) can be used to meet various recovery needs, including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or the refinancing of certain debts.

Iowa Counties – Primary Designation

Benton, Boone, Cedar, Clinton, Dallas, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, and Tama may be eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Iowa and Illinois – Contiguous Designation

Producers in the contiguous counties listed below are also eligible to apply for emergency loans:

- Iowa: Adair, Audubon, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Butler, Carroll, Cass, Delaware, Dubuque, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Iowa, Jackson, Keokuk, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Muscatine, Warren, Washington, Webster, and Wright.
- Illinois: Carroll, Rock Island, and Whiteside.

The deadline to apply for these emergency loans is May 3, 2021.

FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Flexibilities on Environmental Compliance Reviews

To assist producers in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and other states impacted by the Derecho, FSA has streamlined the environmental compliance review process for the [Emergency Conservation Program](#), [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#), [Emergency Loan Program](#), [Farm Storage Facility Program](#), and [Tree Assistance Program](#). Implementation of these programs has been determined to have potentially low impact to protected resources.

These program flexibilities are meant to address work required to restore existing crops, fields, orchards, barns, storage facilities, fences, equipment, and general debris removal. Work required on previously undisturbed ground, new land clearing, or work that would impact any water body, wetland, riparian buffer, or wetland would not be covered by the streamlined environmental review process.

EQIP Special Signup

Additionally, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is making available \$4 million in recovery assistance through a [special EQIP signup](#) in parts of Iowa impacted by the Derecho. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 2, 2020. Eligible applicants will receive higher than normal EQIP practice payments rates during this signup.

These EQIP funds can be used for:

- Seeding cover crops on impacted fields;
- Replacing roofs, covers, or roof runoff structures previously funded through NRCS; and
- Replacing damaged high tunnel systems previously funded by NRCS.

More Information

In addition to emergency loans and EQIP, other available programs include the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#); [Emergency Conservation Program](#), [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](#), [Livestock Indemnity Program](#), and [Operating and Farm Ownership Loans](#). These programs and other available recovery assistance do not require a disaster designation.

Producers and landowners can use the online [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, answering five questions](#) to identify USDA programs that will help meet disaster recovery needs.

For more information on all USDA disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov/recover, or contact your local USDA Service Center, which can be found at farmers.gov/service-center-locator. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, please contact your [crop insurance agent](#).

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Farm Production and Conservation

Farm Service Agency

Farm Programs

1400 Independence Ave. SW Stop 0517 Washington, DC 20250-0517

Phone (202) 720-7641

August 26, 2020

TO: State Executive Director(s) Iowa

FROM: Safety Net Division (SND)

SUBJECT: Secretarial Disaster Designation S4756

Please carefully review the following information concerning the subject disaster designation:

Secretarial Designation Number:	S4756
Approval date by the Secretary:	08/24/2020
Termination Date - EM loan applications:	04/26/2021
Beginning date – Incident period: <small>(For determining EM loan security values)</small>	08/04/2020
Crop Year(s) Affected:	2020
Disaster description:	Drought (Fast Track)

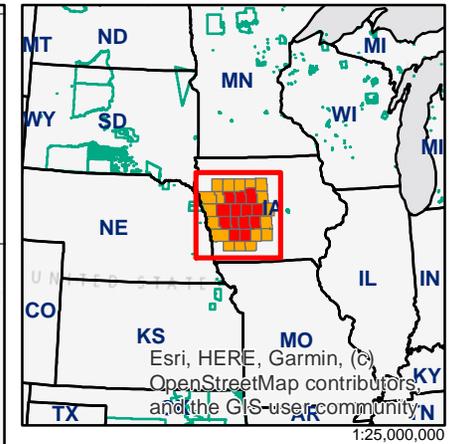
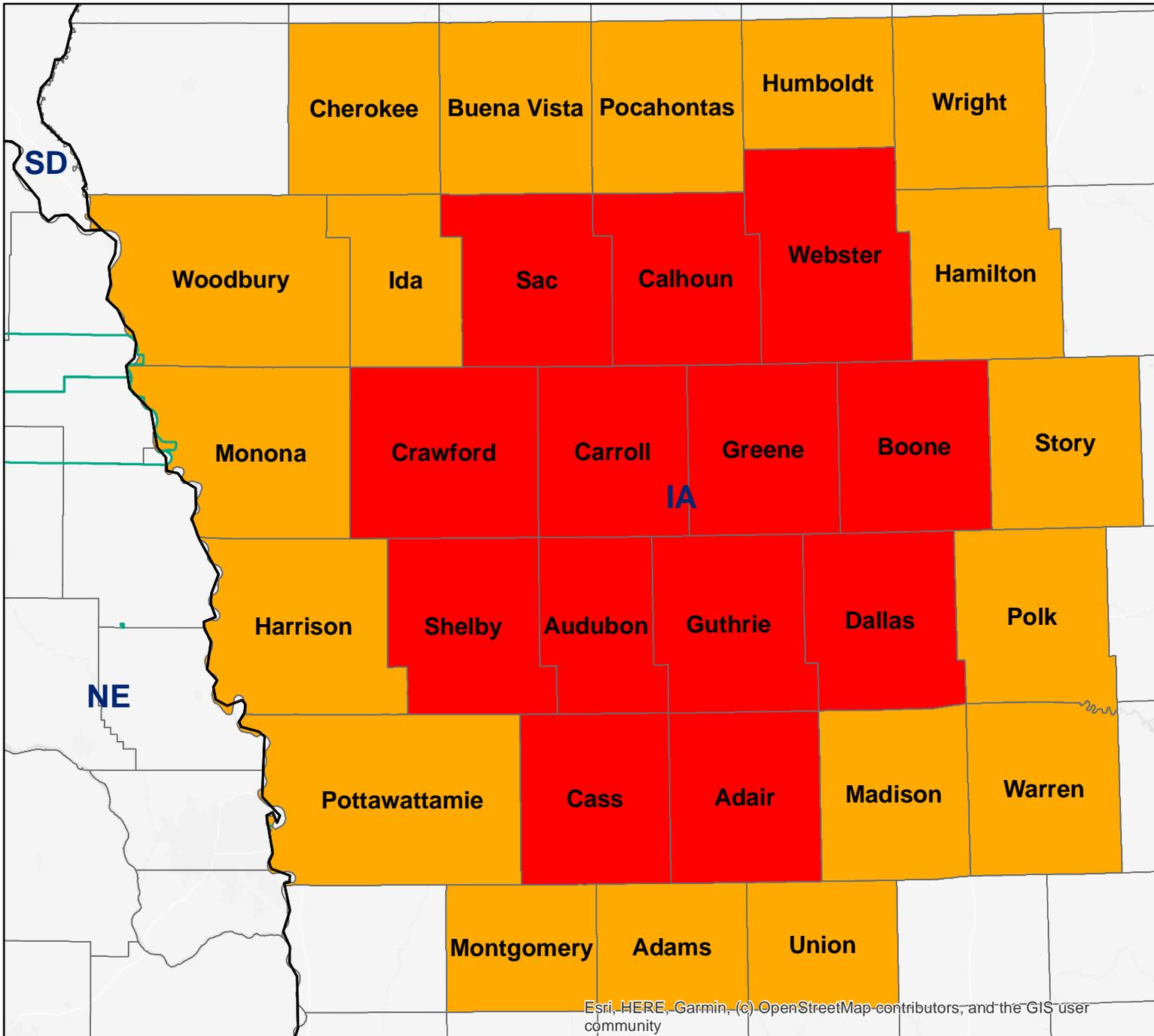
[Complete List of Primary Counties, Contiguous Counties, and Adjacent States, are in the attached ADDENDUM]

Please proceed to take the appropriate actions required by 7 CFR 759.

EXPIRATION DATE: August 31, 2021

FILING INSTRUCTIONS
Farm Loan Programs

2020 Fast Track Drought Designations: IA 8662771



Fast Track Drought Designations

August 6, 2020

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Primary County: 13
-  Contiguous Counties: 18



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

Program Delivery/Safety Net Divisions
Washington, D.C.
August 6, 2020

List of Primary and Contiguous Counties

St/Co FIPS Code	Primary	STATE	St/Co FIPS Code	Contiguous	STATE
19001	Adair	Iowa	19003	Adams	Iowa
19009	Audubon	Iowa	19021	Buena Vista	Iowa
19015	Boone	Iowa	19035	Cherokee	Iowa
19025	Calhoun	Iowa	19079	Hamilton	Iowa
19027	Carroll	Iowa	19085	Harrison	Iowa
19029	Cass	Iowa	19091	Humboldt	Iowa
19047	Crawford	Iowa	19093	Ida	Iowa
19049	Dallas	Iowa	19121	Madison	Iowa
19073	Greene	Iowa	19133	Monona	Iowa
19077	Guthrie	Iowa	19137	Montgomery	Iowa
19161	Sac	Iowa	19151	Pocahontas	Iowa
19165	Shelby	Iowa	19153	Polk	Iowa
19187	Webster	Iowa	19155	Pottawattamie	Iowa
			19169	Story	Iowa
			19175	Union	Iowa
			19181	Warren	Iowa
			19193	Woodbury	Iowa
			19197	Wright	Iowa

SECRETARIAL DESIGNATION REQUEST

Primary State: Iowa

13 primary county(ies)

REPORT DATE: Thursday August 6, 2020

State	Primary	Contiguous	TOTAL
Iowa	13	18	31
TOTALS	13	18	31
TOTAL No. of States	1	1	1