



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 18 2019

The Honorable Cynthia Axne
U.S. House of Representatives
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Axne:

Thank you for your letter of November 1, 2019, requesting a status update on the allotted funding to help Iowa producers recover from the devastating floods. I appreciate the opportunity to address your specific concerns.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working closely with the State of Iowa, as well as local and Federal emergency recovery agencies, to provide the best possible disaster recovery assistance to the citizens affected by the flooding.

In the enclosure to this letter, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Risk Management Agency (RMA), and Rural Development (RD) have answered your questions and addressed your concerns in the order presented within your letter.

USDA understands the challenging circumstances presented by this devastating flood and is working hard in helping Iowa communities recover quickly. USDA programs will provide financial and technical resources needed to assist the local community and their sponsors to successfully recover from this disaster.

Thank you for your continued support of Iowa's producers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonny" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Perdue".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosures

Enclosure

USDA's FSA, NRCS, RMA, and RD answers to the questions in the order presented.

Question #1

Please outline a) which programs are available under your agency for disaster relief, b) where are the website links and relevant application information, c) who is the Agency Point of Contact (POC) to submit a question or request to, and d) who is the correct POC that my office should speak with to ensure funding is allocated to those most in need?

Answer #1

The USDA's Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area delivers a number of federal programs designed to assist producers recovering from disasters. Among these are the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Federal Crop Insurance Program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA). These programs give producers the opportunity to manage risk and recover from disasters effectively. Other programs provided following disasters include the Emergency Watershed Protection Recovery Program (EWPP-Recovery) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) administered by FSA to assist producers who suffered losses from hurricanes, wildfires, and other qualifying natural disasters that occurred in the 2018 and 2019 calendar year.

For a list of available programs, you may access the USDA disaster resource center at: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster> or the recovery site at <https://www.farmers.gov/recover>. The FSA's disaster assistance programs webpage is located at: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>. FSA program fact sheets are available at this link and explain how to apply for FSA assistance.

For additional assistance on informational resources like these, FPAC's Congressional Policy Advisor, Zellie Duvall, is your best point of contact for national office engagement. She can be reached at Zellie.Duvall@usda.gov. The best point of contact from a State perspective would be the Iowa state FSA office; agricultural program specialists can be reached at (515) 331-8480. The State Executive Director is Amanda De Jong. **The State Conservationist is Kurt Simon.**

USDA's Rural Development offers disaster assistance through its Single-Family Housing Program, Community Facilities (CF) Program, and Multi-Family Housing Program. This includes disaster and servicing assistance, grants, and moratoriums, which are offered depending on the program area. Additional details can be found on our disaster assistance web page at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/services/rural-development-disaster-assistance>. The state agency point of contact to submit a question or for information can be reached at 210 Walnut Street, Room 873, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 or (515) 284-4663.

Question #2

In total, how much of this disaster relief funding has your agency provided to Iowans as of November 1st ?

Answer #2

The Federal Crop Insurance Program, administered by RMA has provided Iowa farmers more than \$140 million in indemnities so far in 2019, of which nearly \$130 million was for prevented planting this spring. Moreover, the Prevented Planting “Top-up” program, one of a number of programs developed with the supplemental disaster funding provided through the Disaster Relief Act of 2019, provides for additional funding on top of a prevented planting payment. This program is automatic, requiring no sign-up from producers, and has already paid nearly \$19 million in additional support to Iowa producers.

The Emergency Watershed Protection Recovery Program (EWPP-Recovery) administered by NRCS was approved for 107 sites, for a total estimated construction cost of \$19,669,332. EWPP will provide technical assistance funds and 75 percent of the construction cost to Iowa sponsors.

Iowa is one of 13 States that has received Emergency Watershed Protection - Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) funds through the Disaster Relief Act of 2019. Iowa has received \$36 million in Financial Assistance (FA) funds for EWPP-FPE, which is over 38 percent of NRCS’s total FA funds that have been reserved at this time.

The following provides a breakout of assistance by county provided by FSA under the many disaster programs available:

- WHIP+ – As of 11/21/19
 - WHIP+
 - Iowa Total – \$7,786
 - Cherokee - \$7,786
 - On-Farm Storage Loss Program
 - Iowa Total - \$3,018,409
 - Fremont - \$1,522,773
 - Mills - \$748,507
 - West Pottawattamie - \$747,169
- LIP (for 2019) – As of 11/21/19
 - Iowa Total – \$774,060
 - Adams - \$28,540
 - Allamakee - \$860
 - Bremer - \$7,641
 - Butler - \$8,280
 - Carroll - \$17,581
 - Cherokee - \$8,663

- Clayton - \$1,118
- Clinton - \$25,454
- Crawford - \$4,350
- Dallas - \$5,780
- Davis - \$14,604
- Delaware - \$75,085
- Dubuque - \$18,843
- East Pottawattamie- \$49,803
- Emmet - \$3,099
- Fayette - \$19,049
- Fremont - \$27,006
- Hamilton - \$89,030
- Hancock - \$8,194
- Jackson - \$7,815
- Keokuk - \$40,909
- Kossuth - \$32,727
- Louisa - \$6,760
- Lyon - \$860
- Madison - \$2,220
- Mills - \$71,070
- Monroe - \$6,638
- Montgomery - \$3,895
- Muscatine - \$1,240
- O'Brien - \$4,300
- Poweshiek - \$2,580
- Ringgold - \$25,322
- Sac - \$45,545
- Shelby - \$4,553
- Sioux - \$2,213
- Taylor - \$32,742
- Union - \$16,745
- Wapello - \$15,112
- Washington - \$25,408
- West Pottawattamie - \$11,008
- Winneshiek - \$1,418
- ELAP (for 2019) - As of 11/21/19
 - Iowa Total – \$218,232
 - Black Hawk - \$7,123
 - Chickasaw - \$72,478
 - Clinton - \$550
 - Fayette - \$539
 - Humboldt - \$1,945
 - Jackson - \$122,166

- Johnson - \$185
- Lee - \$2,967
- Lyon - \$1,324
- Muscatine - \$1,244
- O'Brien - \$2,054
- Palo Alto - \$278
- Plymouth - \$5,379
- ECP (for 2019) - as of 11/25/19
 - Iowa Total – \$323,136
 - East Pottawattamie - \$100,180
 - Chickasaw - \$22,518
 - Clayton - \$118,311
 - Davis - \$10,227
 - Dubuque - \$3,127
 - Floyd - \$56,114
 - Fremont - \$3,038
 - West Pottawattamie - \$9,621
- NAP (for 2019) – as of 11/21/19
 - Iowa Total – \$4,198
 - Emmet - \$4,198

As a specific result of natural disasters in Iowa in 2018 and 2019, Iowa Rural Development was allocated \$4,013,768 of Community Facilities (CF) program disaster grant funding from the Disaster Relief Act of 2019. One CF disaster grant was awarded in Iowa prior to November 1, 2019, and two additional CF disaster grant awards were made after November 1, 2019.

Question #3

Please outline each program that has been utilized by Iowans impacted by these floods and explain briefly what each program provides for disaster relief and recovery.

Answer #3

Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Programs

The Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program + (WHIP +) was authorized under the Disaster Relief Act of 2019, and provides assistance for crop, tree, bush, and vine losses due to hurricanes, floods, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, and wildfires occurring in the 2018 and 2019 calendar years.

Counties with 2018/2019 Presidential Disaster Declaration and/or Secretarial Disaster Designation for the named adverse weather events are eligible for WHIP+. Any county not listed under a Presidential Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation could also be

eligible provided the producer submits documentation to the FSA county committee's (COC) satisfaction showing the loss was due to a 2018 or 2019 qualifying disaster event.

The Milk Loss Program (WHIP-ML) provides payments to eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market because of a qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disaster. Producers who suffered losses of harvested commodities, including hay, stored in on-farm structures in 2018 and 2019 will receive assistance through the On-Farm Storage Loss Program (OFSLP).

All counties in Iowa are eligible for OFSLP and WHIP ML funding but only the following counties have reported any activity or interest: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury Counties.

EWPP-Recovery is being actively utilized by Iowans impacted by the floods. EWPP-Recovery provides financial and technical assistance for the following activities under EWP Program – Recovery: debris removal from stream channels, road culverts and bridges; reshape and protect eroded streambanks; correct damaged drainage facilities; establish vegetative cover on critically eroding lands repair levees and structures; and repair conservation practices.

EWPP-FPE allows eligible applicants to voluntarily sell permanent conservation easements to the U.S. through the USDA NRCS. Easements may occur on agricultural land or residential properties damaged by flooding. These easements provide an alternative to the traditional EWPP-Recovery efforts and have been determined that these acquisitions in lieu of recovery are a more economical and prudent approach to reducing a threat to life or property.

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock injuries or deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government.

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

RD Housing Programs

As a specific result of natural disasters in Iowa in 2019, one moratorium was granted for a Rural Development Single-Family Housing Direct Loan borrower, and payment assistance was provided to 21 Rural Development Single-Family Housing Direct Loan borrowers.

Housing Programs did not receive specific disaster funds, but the following amounts of regular funding were invested from April 1, 2019, to November 1, 2019, in the 87 Iowa counties that received Presidential Disaster Declarations administered by FEMA:

Program	Number	Dollars Obligated
502 Guaranteed	932	\$104,892,530
502 Direct	44	\$ 4,988,758
504 Loan	52	\$ 286,103
504 Grant	71	\$ 393,979
HPG	1	\$ 81,636
	1,100	\$110,643,006

There are currently 26 Single-Family Housing Direct (502) Loan applications pending and 11 Single Family Housing Repair (504) applications pending in the 87 Iowa counties that received Presidential Disaster Declarations administered by FEMA. RD will not be able to make decisions on these applications until the agency receives FY 2020 budget authority.

RD Community Facilities Programs

Iowa RD has made \$44,717,423 in Community Facilities investments (impacting 76,785 rural Iowans) since April 1st in the 87 Iowa counties that received Presidential Disaster Declarations administered by FEMA, including the following:

- 3 CF disaster grants totaling \$107,400
- 3 CF direct loans totaling \$43,417,500
- 1 CF guarantee totaling \$150,000
- 23 CF grants totaling \$849,723
- 8 Economic Impact Initiative grants totaling \$192,800
- **Total awarded -- \$44,717,423**

These projects included fire trucks and equipment, expansion of senior living, health clinic and outpatient services, and medical equipment. A complete breakdown by county can be found in Tab A of the attached spreadsheet, “Answer 3. Rural Development Disaster Relief Programs.xlsx.”

In addition, the following Community Facilities applications totaling \$43,689,781 are pending in the 87 Iowa counties that received Presidential Disaster Declarations administered by FEMA, with decisions on these applications expected between December 31, 2019 and September 30, 2020:

- 13 CF disaster grants totaling \$596,500

- 5 CF direct loans totaling \$43,093,281
- **Total pending -- \$43,689,781**

These projects included street improvements, handicapped accessible vans, and an ambulance. A complete breakdown by county can be found in Tab B of the attached spreadsheet, “Answer 3. Rural Development Disaster Relief Programs.xlsx.”

RD Water & Environmental Programs

While Water & Environmental Programs (WEP) did not receive additional funding from the Disaster Relief Act of 2019, Iowa RD did award two Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) totaling \$1,954,000 and one Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) grant totaling \$30,000 in direct response to the 2019 flood disaster. Including those three direct disaster response projects, Iowa RD has made \$31,043,000 of Water & Environmental Program investments (impacting 31,463 rural Iowans) since April 1 in the 87 Iowa counties that received Presidential Disaster Declarations administered by FEMA, including the following:

- 15 WEP direct loans totaling \$22,573,000
- 9 WEP grants totaling \$6,420,000
- 3 SEARCH grants totaling \$90,000
- 1 Predevelopment Planning grants totaling \$6,000
- 2 ECWAG grants totaling \$1,954,000
- **Total awarded -- \$31,043,000**

These projects include wastewater improvements, sewer system rehabilitation and storm drainage. A complete breakdown by county can be found in Tab C of the attached spreadsheet, “Answer 3. Rural Development Disaster Relief Programs.xlsx.”

Finally, the following Water & Environmental Program applications totaling \$47,691,500 are pending in the 87 Iowa counties that received Presidential Disaster Declarations administered by FEMA, with decisions on these applications expected between December 31, 2019 and September 30, 2020:

- 15 WEP direct loans totaling \$41,045,675
- 15 WEP grants totaling \$5,739,825
- 3 ECWAG grants totaling \$906,000
- **Total pending -- \$47,691,500**

These projects include a water treatment plan and sanitary sewer collection and treatment. A complete breakdown by county can be found in Tab D of the attached spreadsheet, “Answer 3. Rural Development Disaster Relief Programs.xlsx.”

Question #4

Please provide as much information as possible about which businesses, communities, counties, and State agencies that have received funding. This information should include locations, points of contact, what type of funding (e.g., grants, loans), and total dollar amounts.

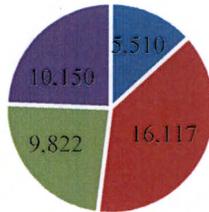
There may be circumstances where personal information cannot be released. In those cases, please provide information that does not include personal details and instead provide me with the program information and total dollar amount.

Answer #4

FSA only provides program payments to producers, please see the breakdown by county found in Question #2.

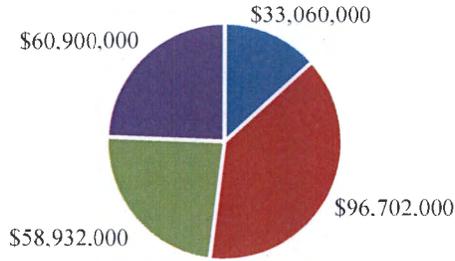
NRCS Iowa has received a total of 393 EWPP-FPE applications from the four regions described below for a total of 41,599 acres and an estimated cost of \$249 million. The below pie charts depict the applications, acres, and estimated funds needed for Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Iowa.

Iowa EWPP-FPE Acres as of 10/24/2019



■ Northeast ■ Northwest ■ Southeast ■ Southwest

**Iowa EWPP-FPE Estimated Funds Needed as of
10/24/2019**



■ Northeast ■ Northwest ■ Southeast ■ Southwest

NRCS EWPP-Recovery program has approved sites for funding for the following Iowa sponsors:

County of Adair	County of Adams	City of Altoona
City of Audubon	City of Avoca	County of Cass
City of Des Moines	City of Dow City	City of Fort Ridge
County of Harrison	County of Henry	County of Jackson
Mills County Secondary Roads	County of Monona	Montgomery County Auditor
Page County Engineer's Office	County of Polk	County of Pottawattamie
County of Ringgold	County of Taylor	City of Underwood
County of Union	City of Windsor Heights	County of Palo Alto
City of Pleasant Hill	County of Woodbury	Woodbury County Soil and Water Conservation District

One CF disaster grant was awarded through RD in Iowa prior to November 1, 2019 in the amount of \$50,000 for a fire truck for the City of Corning.

Two additional CF disaster grants have been awarded in Iowa (but after November 1, 2019).

- One HVAC project for the City of Cumberland in the amount of \$32,800.
- One grant for accessible vans to Opportunity Living in Lake City, IA in the amount of \$56,200.

Question #5

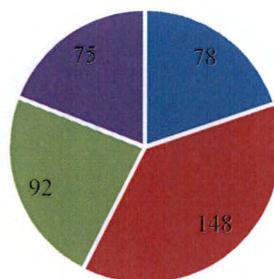
If there are pending applications, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

Answer #5

In addition to the 107 sites that have been approved for funding, there are several sites being prepared for approval in Crawford County. Due to sites not being accessible, entities in the Missouri floodplain area were provided a time extension to submit a request for EWPP-Recovery assistance.

NRCS Iowa announced an EWPP-FPE sign-up on September 5, 2019, with a sign-up deadline of October 18, 2019. Iowa staff are currently working to complete the preliminary eligibility and ranking steps by December 13, 2019.

Iowa EWPP-FPE Applications as of 10/24/2019



■ Northeast ■ Northwest ■ Southeast ■ Southwest

There are no pending disaster funding applications for RD in Iowa.

Question #6

If there have been denials for funding, please provide me with information on why those requests were denied.

Answer #6

FSA program payments are issued to producers who meet all eligibility requirements. To date, Iowa FSA has not denied any applications for assistance as outlined in this response.

No eligible EWPP-FPE funding requests have been denied, however given the amount of funds available and the estimated funds needed it is anticipated that there will not be sufficient funds to fulfill all requests. Eligible applications will be ranked and the highest rated will move forward in the process. No eligible EWPP-Recovery funding requests have been denied. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient funds to fulfill all requests in Iowa.

No applications for RD disaster funding in Iowa have been denied.

WEP Applications in Iowa Disaster Counties

Customer	Project	Loan Amount	Grant Amount	Anticipated Award Date
Aubudon, City of	ECWAG - well protection improvements		\$ 645,000	12/31/2019
Hamburg, City of	Water System Repairs - ECWAG - Flooding	\$ -	\$ 110,000	12/31/2019
Hamburg, City of	Water System Repairs - ECWAG - Flooding	\$ -	\$ 150,000	12/31/2019
Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Applications			\$ 906,000	
Adel, City of	Drinking Water - Distribution improvements			3/31/2020
Ashton, City of	SEARCH - Design Water Project	\$ -	\$ 30,000	12/31/2019
Bayard, City of	Waste Water	\$ 1,720,500	\$ 573,500	12/31/2019
Chariton Water Department	Water distribution improvements			6/30/2020
Corning, City Of	Wastewater System Study & PER - PPG	\$ -	\$ 30,000	12/31/2019
Earling, City of	Lagoon System Improvements	\$ 1,560,000	\$ 697,000	12/31/2019
Henderson, City of	Drinking Water	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 450,000	12/31/2019
Iowa Regional Utilities	Westgate Water Tower	\$ 750,000	\$ -	9/30/2020
Iowa Regional Utilities	Hamilton, Hardin 3 (HH3)	\$ 6,226,400	\$ -	3/31/2020
Mondamin, City of	Drinking Water	\$ 2,386,500	\$ 795,500	12/31/2019
New Hartford, City of	Storm Water	\$ 930,000	\$ 310,000	9/30/2020
Nichols, City Of	Nichols, City of SEARCH Grant	\$ -	\$ 30,000	12/31/2019
North English, City of	Wastewater Facility Improvements	\$ 7,650,800	\$ -	3/31/2020
Solider, City of	Drinking Water	\$ 1,916,250	\$ 638,750	12/31/2019
Southern Iowa Rural Water Association	Water Treatment Plant	\$ 10,000,000		3/31/2020
Stuart, City of	Water Treatment Plant	\$ 3,693,750	\$ 1,231,250	12/31/2019
Town of Dougherty	Sanitary Sewer Collection & Treatment	\$ 1,275,225	\$ 425,075	12/31/2019
Westgate, City of	Drinking Water	\$ 1,586,250	\$ 528,750	3/31/2020
Wyoming, City of	Drinking Water			3/31/2020
Water & Environmental Program Applications in Disaster Counties		\$ 41,045,675	\$ 5,739,825	