



USDA Designates Indiana counties and 8 contiguous Ohio counties as natural disaster areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 53 counties in Indiana as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred during the period of May 1, 2015 and continues. The following eight Ohio counties also qualify for natural disaster assistance because they are contiguous to Indiana: Butler, Darke, Defiance, Hamilton, Mercer, Paulding, Preble, and Van Wert.

All counties were designated natural disaster areas on August 12, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), 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 considers 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. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. [Read more...](#)