

to provide for consideration such factors as the nature and extent of production losses; the number of farmers who have sustained qualifying production losses; the number of farmers in that other lenders in the county indicate they will not be in position to finance; whether the losses will cause undue hardship to a certain segment of farmers in the county; whether damage to particular crops has resulted in undue hardship; whether other Federal and/or State benefit programs, which are being made available due to the same disaster, will consequently lessen undue hardship and the demand for EM loans; and any other factors considered relevant. The Secretary will consider the information set forth in §1945.6(i) of this subpart in deciding whether a natural disaster has occurred.

(4) *Potential natural disaster.* Unusual and adverse weather conditions or natural phenomena that have caused physical and/or production losses, but which have not yet been examined by the Secretary or the Administrator for consideration as a natural disaster.

(d) *Disaster area(s).* The county(ies) declared/designated as a disaster area for EM loan assistance as a result of disaster related losses. This included counties named as contiguous to those counties declared/designated as disaster areas.

(e) *Farmers.* Individuals, cooperatives, corporations, partnerships or joint operations who are farmers, ranchers, or aquaculture operators actively engaged in their operation at the time a disaster occurs.

(f) *Incidence period.* The specific date or dates during which a disaster occurred.

(g) *National Office.* The Director, Emergency Designation Staff.

(h) *Normal year's dollar value.* The FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 National Office will determine the normal year's dollar value by establishing a normal year yield and price. Normal year yield will be the average yield of the 5 years immediately preceding the disaster year for each cash crop, including hay and pasture, grown in the county. The price will be the average commodity price for the 36 months immediately preceding the disaster year for each crop.

Yields and prices used to establish the value or normal production will be obtained from the NASS. In cases where crops produced and/or prices are not available from NASS, the information will be obtained from other reliable sources. Yields used to establish the disaster year's production will be obtained from DARs which are prepared by the LFACs and SFACs. Prices used to establish the value of disaster year production will be the same as those used to establish normal year values.

(i) *Substantially affected.* A farmer applicant has been substantially affected when there has been a disaster as defined in paragraph (c) of this section, and the applicant has sustained qualifying physical and/or production losses, as defined in §1945.154(a) of subpart D of part 1945 of this chapter.

(j) *Termination date.* The date specified in a disaster declaration/determination/notification which establishes the final date after which EM loan applications can no longer be accepted. For both physical and production losses, the termination date will be 8 months from the date of the disaster declaration/determination/notification.

(k) *United States or State.* Each of the several States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

[53 FR 30384, Aug. 11, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 26681, May 5, 1993]

§§ 1945.7–1945.17 [Reserved]

§ 1945.18 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Agriculture Council (FAC).

There is a USDA FAC established by the Secretary to serve every State and every County in the United States. The FACs are responsible for reporting the occurrence of and assessing the damage caused by potential disasters, as required to ensure that the Department's disaster programs are implemented when and where needed; to coordinate the Department's EM disaster programs with those of other Federal departments and agencies; and to provide personnel, as needed and requested by

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FEMA, to help staff disaster application centers in major disaster areas.

(a) *State Food and Agriculture Council (SFAC)*. The SFACs are composed of representatives of the several USDA agencies having emergency program responsibilities at the State level. The vice chairpersons, Emergency Programs, of the SFACs are the ASCS State Executive Directors. FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 State Directors are members of the SFACs.

(b) *Local Food and Agriculture Council (LFAC)*. These councils are composed of representatives of the several USDA agencies having available personnel at the County level. The chairpersons of the LFACs, in most cases, are the ASCS County Executive Directors. The FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 County Supervisors are members of the LFACs.

(c) *FAC policies and procedures*. These policies and procedures are set forth in the USDA Emergency Operations Handbook (EOH), available in any ASCS or FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Office.

§ 1945.19 Reporting potential natural disasters and initial actions.

(a) *Purpose*. The purpose of reporting potential natural disasters is to provide a systematic procedure for rapid reporting of the occurrence and extent of damage and loss caused by such events which may result in a natural disaster determination.

(b) *Responsibility for assessing and reporting disasters*. USDA SFACs and LFACs representing their members agencies are best qualified at the State and County levels to accomplish the assessment of agricultural production losses resulting from a potential natural disaster. These councils are charged with the responsibility of reporting the occurrence of and assessing the damage caused by disasters and will perform this responsibility under policies and procedures as set forth in the EOH.

(c) *Actions to be taken*. Immediately after the occurrence of a potential natural disaster:

(1) When physical losses only occur, the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 County Su-

pervisor will report to the State Director who will advise the Administrator that there has been a potential natural disaster with physical property losses to one or more farmers. This report must be made to the Administrator within 3 months from the last day of the disaster incidence period. Upon receiving the report, the Administrator will decide whether a natural disaster has occurred. If it has, the Administrator will make EM loans available to any otherwise qualified applicant who has suffered qualifying physical losses. Availability of EM loans assistance under this Administrator action shall be limited to physical losses only. Notices that EM loans are available will identify the county in which the unusual and adverse weather condition, or natural phenomenon has occurred and also each contiguous county.

(2) When physical and/or production losses occur, the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 County Supervisor will report to the LFAC chairperson, as specified in the EOH, all substantial physical property loss, damage or injury and severe production losses that have occurred in the County Office area. The County Supervisor will assist the LFAC in preparing the 24-hour report required in paragraph (c)(3) of this section. If the LFAC has not completed its 24 hour report within two workdays after the occurrence of a potential natural disaster, the County Supervisor will report to the State Director of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1945-27, "Report of Natural Disaster." In urgent situations, the report may be made by telephone, followed by the LFAC report or Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1945-27. Either of these reports will be based on information obtained from personal knowledge and from farmers, agricultural and community leaders, and from any other personally contacted reliable source(s). The County Supervisor will convey to the LFAC chairperson all information pertaining to the potential disaster and provide the chairperson with a copy of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1945-27, if prepared.