

§§ 1945.22–1945.24

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1–1–05 Edition)

payments are to be handled in conjunction with the processing of EM actual loss loans so that duplication of benefits for the same losses are not received by disaster victims;

(4) Make appropriate public announcements, including notices in Indian Tribal Council(s) news media. However, if the declaration was by the President, under §1945.20(a) of this subpart, news releases should be cleared with the FEMA; and

(5) If the FEMA notifies the State Director that an agreement between the State and Federal Government (FEMA) has been made to provide 408 grants in a major disaster area to those suffering damages and losses to housing and personal property, who *are ineligible* for disaster loan assistance through the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 and/or SBA, the following actions will be taken:

(i) The State Director will notify the appropriate County Supervisor(s) of the address and phone number of the nearest FEMA office in the Supervisor's area; and

(ii) At the close of business each week, the County Supervisor(s) will forward to the State Director a list of applicants claiming physical losses who do not qualify for EM loan assistance, with the reason(s) they do not qualify; and

(iii) The State Director will immediately summarize the information received from the County Supervisors and forward a report to FEMA.

(c) *By the County Supervisor.* (1) Notify the County ASCS Executive Director of the declaration/determination/notification and have a meeting to review and implement the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASCS and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 on Disaster Assistance, exhibit A of FmHA Instruction 2000–JJ (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 office), to arrive at a mutual understanding as to how ASCS disaster program benefits and other information in ASCS's records will be made available and used in processing EM actual loss loans. Also, the County Supervisor will request that information regarding the

availability of EM loans be placed in the ASCS's newsletter;

(2) Notify the County Governing Body, Indian Tribal Council(s), and make appropriate public announcements including notices in Indian Tribal Council(s)' news media; and

(3) Explain the assistance available under the EM program to agricultural lenders and leaders in the area including Indian agricultural lenders and leaders.

§§ 1945.22–1945.24 [Reserved]

§ 1945.25 Relationship between FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 and FEMA.

(a) *General.* When a major disaster or emergency declaration is made by the President, the FEMA is charged with the responsibility for seeing that disaster assistance is made available to disaster victims. Also, FEMA is responsible for coordinating the actions of other Federal agencies who have programs to provide disaster assistance. A Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) is appointed for each major disaster or emergency to coordinate Federal assistance in the disaster area.

(b) *Before the declaration.* (1) When a request for a major disaster or emergency declaration is made by the Governor of a State, the FEMA through its Regional Director is responsible for obtaining an assessment of the losses and damages to respond to the request.

(2) If the FEMA makes a request for information from FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 on losses and damages caused by an unusual and adverse weather condition or natural phenomenon, the FEMA representative will be advised to contact the SFAC Vice Chairperson. The EOH provides that the SFAC will request the LFAC to prepare the DAR. State Directors and County Supervisors should cooperate with the SFAC Vice Chairpersons and LFAC Chairpersons in preparing the DARs.

(c) *After the declaration.* When a major disaster has been declared by the President and the FEMA establishes a disaster application center(s) in the local disaster area(s):

(1) The SFAC will be responsible for:

(i) Selecting qualified USDA employees to represent USDA at each center,

after consulting with other council members in making the selection. FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 State Directors will cooperate with the SFAC in seeing that centers are properly staffed.

(ii) Orienting the selected employees on all current USDA disaster programs. FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 State Directors will cooperate in this orientation to ensure that the USDA representatives at the center(s) are familiarized with the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 EM loan program and other FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 loan programs that could be of assistance to the disaster victims; and

(iii) Informing the FEMA that USDA representatives are available to help at each of the disaster application centers.

(2) The FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 State Director will be responsible for pursuing the following policy in working with the FEMA and the FCO by:

(i) Authorizing receipt of EM loan applications in the counties named by the FEMA. However, no EM loans can be approved until the National Office has given such notification as prescribed in § 1945.20(a)(1) of this subpart;

(ii) Attending or delegating a representative to attend any meeting(s) called by the FCO to discuss Federal assistance under the disaster declaration; and

(iii) Advising the FCO to contact the SFAC Vice Chairperson, if a request is made by the FCO for FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employees to help staff the FEMA's Disaster Application Centers; and

(iv) Advising the FCO that FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's "Report of Emergency Loans Made Pertaining to Disasters" will be provided quarterly to FEMA's National Office by the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 National Office.

§ 1945.26 Relationship between FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 and SBA.

(a) *General.* Public Law 99-272 made agricultural enterprises ineligible for

SBA physical disaster and economic injury loan programs. However, in disaster areas declared by the President or the SBA Administrator, the SBA will continue to accept physical disaster loan applications for losses to dwellings and/or personal household contents, regardless of whether the dwelling is located on a farm or non-farm tract. It is the policy of USDA and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to cooperate with SBA in the use of each agency's respective loan making authorities, to complement the activities of each other; and to the extent possible, improve the delivery of disaster assistance to the agricultural segment of the country and minimize the potential for duplication of benefits for the same losses from the disaster loan programs administered by the two agencies.

(b) *Preventing duplication of disaster program benefits.* Preventing borrowers from receiving duplicate disaster program benefits will be assured by taking the following precautions:

(1) For all counties named by FEMA under a major disaster or Presidential emergency declaration, the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 County Offices will notify the appropriate SBA Disaster Area Office of all EM loan applications received each week, for damage or loss of farm dwellings and/or loss of household contents. Notice will be given by forwarding to SBA a photocopy of the applicant's completed Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 410-1, "Application for FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Services." Block 22 of the form should indicate the purpose for which the loan was requested.

(2) For each application referred to in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 County Offices will send a copy of each final action taken with EM loan applications to the appropriate SBA Disaster Area Office.

(3) A farm applicant may elect to obtain SBA financing for physical damage or loss to the dwelling and household contents, and separate financing from FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to cover damages or losses to the farming operation.