

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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June 13, 2018

The Honorable John Farmer
Crane County Judge
Crane County Courthouse
201 W 6th St
Crane, TX 79731-2514

Dear Judge Farmer:

We have received notice from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that your county has been designated eligible to apply for low-interest emergency disaster loans due to drought conditions.

The Secretary has notified the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to immediately make emergency loans available to eligible applicants in your county. Your local FSA office will have the details on this program.

In addition, the Small Business Administration (SBA), in an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides low-interest federal disaster loans to eligible small businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers in counties that have received a disaster declaration from the Secretary of Agriculture.

I have enclosed a copy of the information provided by the USDA. If you have any questions, please call Steve Logan of my staff at 512-424-7732.

Sincerely,

W. Nim Kidd, CEM®, TEM
Chief

Texas Division of Emergency Management
Assistant Director
Texas Homeland Security
Texas Department of Public Safety

WNK:stl
ENCLOSURES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Texas State FSA Office
2405 Texas Avenue South
College Station, TX 77840


TX NOTICE FLP-1179

3-FLP (Rev. 2)

FOR: County Offices

Secretarial Disaster Declaration S4335

Approved by: Acting State Executive Director

/s/ Davis R. Sullivan 

I Overview

A Background

On **June 5, 2018**, the Secretary of Agriculture designated **5 Texas counties** as primary natural disaster areas. This action is based on damages and losses **caused by Drought (Fast Track)** occurring **May 29, 2018 and continuing**. The primary counties are:

Andrews Crane Ector Pecos Upton

In addition to the above **counties**, **12 other Texas counties** are named as **contiguous** where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance, pursuant to section 321 (a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Those counties are:

Brewster Crockett Gaines Glasscock Jeff Davis Martin Midland
Reagan Reeves Terrell Ward Winkler

Also, in accordance with section 321 (a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent State that are contiguous to one or more of the designated **Texas counties**, are named as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance. For this designation, the affected States and counties are:

New Mexico (1) **Lea**

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Disposal Date	Distribution (6-RMH/06/11/2018)
June 30, 2019	County Offices

TX Notice FLP-1179

B Application Deadline

EM Loan applications will be received through **February 5, 2019** for **production and physical losses**.

2 Action

A Exceptions for Application Deadlines

County Offices shall thoroughly review Exhibit 1.

B Determining Security Values

For the purpose of determining loan security values for loan applications, the beginning date of the incidence period is **May 29, 2018**.

C District Director's and Farm Loan Manager's Responsibilities

District Directors and Farm Loan Managers shall follow instructions according to 3-FLP (Rev. 2), and FmHA Instruction 1945-A for emergency loan applicability.

The Farm Loan Manager shall notify borrowers of Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) availability in accordance with handbook 5-FLP paragraph 42.

D Public Announcements

Special emphasis will be placed on informing the farm community through public announcements and arranging and conducting meetings with local Agricultural lenders and leaders.

3 Contact Point

A Inquires

If there are questions concerning this notice, contact the Conservation or Farm Loan Program Division.

Subject: **Secretarial Disaster Declaration S4335**

Please carefully review the notice listing the primary and contiguous counties determined eligible by the Secretary and the Emergency Preparedness and Programs Branch for emergency (EM) loans effective **June 5, 2018**.

This declaration is coded **S4335**, and EM loan applications will be received through **February 5, 2019**. For the purpose of determining loan security values for loan applications, the beginning date of the incidence period is **May 29, 2018**.

Please proceed to take the appropriate notification and coordination actions required by Handbook 1-DIS and 7CFR part 759.



U.S. Small Business
Administration

NEWS RELEASE

Disaster Field Operations Center West

Release Date: June 12, 2018

Contact: Richard A. Jenkins, (916) 735-1500,
Richard.Jenkins@sba.gov

Release Number: TX 15562-01

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SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available to Texas Small Businesses

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Small nonfarm businesses in 17 Texas counties and the neighboring county in New Mexico are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced Director Tanya N. Garfield of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West. These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in the following primary counties that began May 29, 2018.

Primary Texas counties: Andrews, Crane, Ector, Pecos and Upton;

Neighboring Texas counties: Brewster, Crockett, Gaines, Glasscock, Jeff Davis, Martin, Midland, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Ward and Winkler;

Neighboring New Mexico county: Lea.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster," Garfield said.

Small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.61 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Garfield said.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on June 5, 2018.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for economic injury is Feb. 5, 2019.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.