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### Free Legal Assistance Available

A toll-free legal aid hotline is available for survivors of recent storms and flooding in Iowa.

Those seeking assistance may call 877-775-8882, 24 hours a day. Survivors who qualify for assistance will be matched with Iowa lawyers who have volunteered to provide free help.

### Visit the Task Force Website

For more information on the Missouri River Recovery Coordination Task Force visit [www.MoRiverRecovery.iowa.gov](http://www.MoRiverRecovery.iowa.gov).

## FEMA Extends Deadline to Apply for Individual Assistance Funding

Citizens in Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties now have until Jan. 3, 2012, to apply for FEMA Individual Assistance funding.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to extend the registration period, which was set to end December 19, 2011, because disaster recovery officials began getting information suggesting that some Iowans weren't aware they could be applying for help.

The cases generally involve individuals and families whose homes did not sustain actual flood damage but



were unlivable because of outages involving essential utilities or severe, prolonged flooding that made the house inaccessible.

"We know some Iowans incurred costs to temporarily live somewhere else until they could get back home," said HSEMD's Pat Hall, state coordinating officer for the disaster. "Those  
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## Assistance to Individuals, Businesses and Communities Tops \$21 Million

More than \$21 million in assistance has been approved for individuals, businesses and communities impacted by the Missouri River flooding.

### Assistance for Individuals and Businesses

As of Dec. 16, the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved \$4.1 million in Individual Assistance funding for residents of Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties. In addition, the Small Business Administration has approved \$2.7 million in home and

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## Deadline Extended to Apply for Individual Assistance

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folks may not know it's possible to get financial assistance to help cover the costs of that temporary housing. That's why we are urging anyone in those five counties who was impacted to call and register before the deadline passes."

Temporary housing assistance can be provided if a FEMA inspector verifies that the home was inaccessible due to road closures, floodwaters or if essential utilities such as power, water and gas were temporarily turned off for safety reasons. FEMA is reviewing current registrations for assistance to determine if there are persons who might be eligible under those circumstances.

"Iowans who visited our Disaster Recovery Centers or called the FEMA Helpline inquiring about reimbursement for these temporary expenses helped us realize there was a need that was not being met," said FEMA's Michael Scott, federal coordinating officer. "We reviewed those inquiries and determined that we may be able to help with some of these costs."

Persons who think they might have eligible temporary housing costs that have not already been reimbursed can call FEMA's Helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) to check the status of their case and to find out what kind of documentation is required to submit a claim.

Others who were impacted by the flooding but have not yet registered at all, also should apply to FEMA before the January 3 deadline in one of the following ways:

- Call FEMA's toll-free Registration Helpline 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. CST, seven days a week. Those with a speech disability or hearing loss who use a TTY can call 1-800-462-7585, or use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS) to call 1-800-621-3362.
- Register online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), or by Smartphone at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov)
- Information on SBA programs can be obtained by calling: 1-800-659-2955, for speech and hearing impaired individuals TTY 1-800-877-8339, or by visiting the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/services.disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services.disasterassistance). ♦

## Disaster Assistance Tops \$21 Million

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business loans for impacted residents and businesses.

### Public Assistance

Nearly \$14.7 million has been obligated by FEMA for projects under the Public Assistance Pro-

grams. Projects funded under this program include repair of roads, bridges and other public infrastructure, along with emergency protective measures that were taken to prevent or mitigate damage from flood waters. ♦

## Southwest Iowa Recovery Network Makes Recovery Assistance Available

The Southwest Iowa Recovery Network (SWIRN) has made assistance available to families affected by the Missouri River flooding.

Residents affected by the 2011 flood event may receive as much as \$1,000 to assist with their recovery, although actual amounts will vary according to need. Applicants may also receive information and referral to other agencies and programs that may be able to provide recovery assistance.

Requests for financial assistance should fall into one of the following categories:

- Housing repairs due to flood damage
- Temporary housing for relocation after the flood
- Childcare during the immediate time after the flood due to relocation
- Personal items lost due to flooding, including transportation replacement or repairs due to flooding
- Mental health services
- Items needed to fight household flooding

FEMA registration is required prior to granting financial assistance. See page 1 for information on how to register with FEMA.

For more information and application instructions, visit <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/news/>. ♦

# Flood Recovery Options for Agricultural Land

*Note: This information is provided by the Missouri River Flood Task Force Agriculture Work Group. The Missouri River Flood Task Force is a coalition of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations that are coordinating Missouri River flood response efforts. For more information, visit [www.moriv-errecovey.iowa.gov/resources/publications.html](http://www.moriv-errecovey.iowa.gov/resources/publications.html).*

Landowners along the Missouri River are assessing flood water damages and making decisions about their agricultural land. Flood recovery, crop insurance, permits and regulations are just some of the key issues producers will need to consider as they plan for the 2012 crop year.

There are several programs available that may provide financial or technical assistance to producers whose agricultural land was damaged during the Missouri River flooding.

## **Crop Insurance**

If you had insurance on the crop for 2011, you are covered for losses caused to it by the 2011 flood. Also, you will be covered for 2012 if you are unable to plant due to damages caused by the 2011 flood event if you had insurance on the crop in 2011. Contact your crop insurance agent for more information.

## **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)**

SURE provides assistance to producers suffering at least a 10 percent production crop loss due to natural disasters on a farm in a

disaster designated county. The program is managed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. The program is managed by the Farm Service Agency. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Removing sand and debris from fields and repairing fence are common ECP projects. The program is managed by the Farm Service Agency. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

CTA provides technical assistance to help land users reduce the potential damage caused by excess water, sedimentation, and other natural resource concerns on their land. Note that only technical assistance is available under this



program. The program is managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## **Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)**

EFRP provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. The program is managed by the Farm Service Agency. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

## **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program**

The EWP program provides technical and financial assistance to local units of government and other entities to repair waterways damaged by a natural disaster. Removing stream channel blockages, cleaning drainage ditches, and in a limited capacity, repairing breached levees are examples of

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## Flood Recovery Options

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potential EWP Program projects. The program is managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information on program eligibility and funding.

### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP helps producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, participants receive a rental payment and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices including wetland restoration, creation, or construction, riparian buffers, or grass filters, may be enrolled at any time under CRP continuous sign-up. The program is managed by the Farm Service Agency. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

### EWP Program – Floodplain Easement

EWP Program Floodplain Easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain, improve water quality, and provide other environmental benefits. The program pays willing landowners for an easement, and will restore the acreage to its natural floodplain functions and values. Landowners retain fee simple title to the land. This program is managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Visit your lo-

cal USDA Service Center for more information.

### Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)

FWP restores farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation. Eligible producers can enroll eligible land in the FWP through the Conservation Reserve Program. The program is managed by the Farm Service Agency. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

### Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

WRP is an easement program that offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. WRP will pay willing landowners for an easement, and will restore wetland functions on the acreage. Landowners retain fee simple title to the land. The program is managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Visit your local USDA Service Center for more information.

### Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Recovery Program (MRRP)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the MRRP, which includes the ability to acquire lands in fee simple title from willing sellers. Lands must meet specific criteria that determine if the area is suitable for restoring Missouri River habitat that existed prior to construction of the navigation channel and bank stabilization measures. Please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha or Kansas City Districts. ♦

Missouri River Recovery  
Coordination Task Force

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The Missouri River Flood Recovery newsletter is published by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division in cooperation with members of the Missouri River Recovery Coordination Task Force.

Questions or comments may be directed to:  
**MoRiverRecovery@iowa.gov.**

