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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### GOVERNOR'S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD — AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

**Meeting.** The Agriculture Working Group of the Governor's Flood Recovery Advisory Board met for its second meeting on May 17, 2019, in Malvern, Iowa. The Agriculture Working Group is one of six working groups created by the Board and is being supported by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs).

**Members.** The members of the Agriculture Working Group include:

- Mike Naig, Secretary of Agriculture.
- Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State University.
- David Lueth, farmer.
- Jeff Jorgensen, farmer.
- Lyle and Alice Hodde, farmers.
- Michael Stenzel, farmer.
- Steve Kenkel, Shelby County Supervisor.
- Senator Mark Costello.
- Senator Tom Shipley.
- Duane Voy, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Risk Management Agency.
- Amanda De Jong, USDA, Farm Service Agency.
- Kurt Simon, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Special Guests.** Special guests at the meeting included:

- Sherry Kuntz, Office of U.S. Senator Charles Grassley.
- Stephanie Carlson, Office of U.S. Senator Charles Grassley.

**Federal Disaster Aid Package.** An update was presented on the 2018 federal disaster aid package, including the grain package and additional funding for USDA programs. Continued importance of up-to-date numbers to inform federal appropriations was emphasized.

**Stored Grain and Structures.** As salvageable crops are recovered, there is a continuing need for expertise on handling flooded grain storage bins. Among the issues discussed were:

- The lack of a "textbook" for addressing the combination of grain storage and flood damage.
- Engaging private sector expertise to inform local farmers on best practices.
- The importance of farmer safety in every step of the process.
- The requirement that crops in contact with flood waters be considered adulterated and be disposed of.
- Disposal, which includes composting, land application, and landfilling under jurisdiction of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Risk Management.** The group touched on decision-making for farmers regarding crops and insurance for the current year and for 2020. Topics discussed included:

- Decision-making tools for producers as planting season concludes.
- Normal planting season closes on May 31 (corn) and June 15 (soybeans).
- Options after planting window closes.
- The importance of conversations with crop insurance agents to determine best options.

- The breached levee statement, which states that if levees or soil are not up to standards, land may be deemed high-risk for insurance purposes.
- The deadlines for levee and soil standards are April 11, 2020 (corn) and April 21, 2020 (soybeans).

**Other Topics.** Among the other topics discussed were:

- Levees.
- Cover crops.
- Pumps for water removal.
- Mental health support for producers.

**Additional Information.** The following websites have additional information related to topics discussed:

- [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Agricultural Decision Maker](#), for crop planting choices.
- [USDA Breached Levee Statement](#), for high-risk insurance determination.
- USDA [High-Risk Alternate Coverage Endorsement](#), for information regarding high-risk insurance options.
- [USDA Final Agency Determination 112](#), regarding prevented planting coverage.
- [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Iowa Concern](#), for mental health assistance for persons affected by flooding.
- [2019 Iowa Floods](#), for flood-related information including road closures.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for Friday, May 24, 2019, in Malvern.

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