
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

GOVERNOR'S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD — AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

Meeting. The Agriculture Working Group of the Governor's Flood Recovery Advisory Board met via conference call on June 18, 2019. The Agriculture Working Group is one of the six working groups created by the Board and is being supported by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs).

Flood Discussion. The following topics were discussed during the call:

- Amanda De Jong, Farm Services Agency, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) discussed the [federal disaster aid bill](#) that appropriates \$3.000 billion in funding. Also discussed was the Market Facilitation Program, which may include payments for cover crops. Currently, the Program does not make payments on unplanted acres, including land not planted due to hazardous weather conditions. However, there is an ongoing discussion that payments could be made for cover crops that are harvested later in the year and used for forage.
- Kurt Simon, federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provided information on the [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#). The Program provides options to landowners and local communities to reduce the hazards from floods, droughts, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Examples of how funds are used include: removing debris, protecting eroded stream banks, repairing levees, and reseeding damaged areas. Currently, all 99 counties are eligible to apply for assistance.

Flood Damage Updates. David Lueth farms near Percival, Iowa, and reported that he was finally able to drive to his farm and was cleaning and repairing his buildings damaged by the floods. He also reported that he will not plant a crop this year and will focus on restoring his operations and applying for assistance to offset his losses. Lyle Hodde farms near Sidney, Iowa, and discussed the damage at the Bartlett Grain Company that is located near Hamburg, Iowa. The photos below were forwarded by Hodde.



Corn pile damage at the Bartlett Grain Company.

Additional Information. The following websites have additional information related to Iowa's flood and disaster recovery:

- [2019 Iowa Floods](#) has flood-related information, including flood recovery and road closures.
- [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#) includes federal information on disaster assistance programs.
- [USDA Recover](#) has information on crops, livestock, conservation, and other programs.
- [Emergency Conservation Program](#) aids by repairing farmland damage caused by natural disasters.
- [Rebuild Iowa Office](#) has archived information from the flood event in 2008.

Next Meeting. The next meeting date was not set during the conference call. The Working Group discussed touring the southwest Iowa region as part of the next meeting.

LSA Staff Contact: Deb Kozel (515.281.6767) deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov
Rodrigo Acevedo (515.281.6764) rodrigo.acevedo@legis.iowa.gov

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