Important Information for Poultry Growers after a Natural Disaster

Compiled by the Mississippi Poultry Association

**Insurance**
- Check with your insurance provider what your policy covers. Some policies cover for “Income Loss”.

**Integrator**
- You will need to contact your integrator to report damage and get assistance in catching and moving birds and contacting state agencies. Also, requests copies of your grower contract and most recent mortality numbers. Make sure to request multiple copies of each. Both documents are crucial in proving your eligibility for assistance from governmental agencies.

**Board of Animal Health**
- Contact the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) if need an emergency burial permit. For the Mississippi Board of Animal Health to issue you a permit, you will need an estimate of the amount of birds that were lost. Your integrator will have on file a number that will be a starting point. Please contact your integrator to receive a copy of your placement records. The MBAH phone number is **(601) 359-1170**

**Handling Debris**
- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality does not allow you to burn any debris.
- Check with a county administrator or supervisor to see where they are requesting the debris to be placed.

**Farm Service Agency (FSA)**
- The FSA has three programs which may help poultry producers impacted by adverse weather: The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Loan Program
- The Livestock Indemnity Program provides benefits to poultry and livestock producers for deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. LIP payments are based on 75 percent of the market value, as determined by FSA, of the applicable poultry and livestock on the day before the date of death of the poultry and livestock.
The application consists of two parts: 1) the notice of loss, and 2) the application for payment.

To apply: To be eligible, the notice of loss must be submitted the earlier of:
  o 30 calendar days of when the loss of poultry and/or livestock is apparent to the producer; or
  o 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of poultry and/or livestock occurred.

However, since this is the first year of the program, the application for payment and all supporting documentation for 2014 losses must be submitted to the County Office no later than January 30, 2015. Documentation of the number and kind of poultry that have died and/or the number and kind of cattle that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as, but not limited to:
  - Photographs or video records dated if possible to document the loss;
  - Purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents;
  - Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

Please Note: Contract poultry growers are required to provide a copy of the grower contract to FSA. In case an integrator provides loss of income assistance to a grower, documentation of the amount must be submitted. If a grower’s insurance policy provides a loss of income assistance, documentation of the amount must be submitted.

- The objective of the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is to provide cost-share assistance to agricultural producers who have suffered severe damage to their farmland because of a natural disaster. For poultry producers, the most likely practice that will be needed is removal of debris from farmland.
  - ECP provides cost-share assistance for eligible expenses related to a natural disaster. It does not pay 100 percent.
  - Producers should inquire with their local FSA county office regarding ECP sign-up periods, which are established locally by FSA county committees.
  - In all cases, producers must provide evidence of expenses for FSA to determine whether the practice requirements are met and to determine proper payment. This evidence may include receipts, invoices, cancelled checks and other similar evidence. If the practice is performed using the producer’s own labor, equipment, or materials, the producer shall submit signed, itemized statements.

The Emergency Loan Program provides Emergency Loan assistance to help farmers who own or operate farms located in a County declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area. It also makes this assistance available to farmers in Counties contiguous to those primary Counties. These loans are designed to assist eligible producers in restoring or replacing essential property and may assist in payment of production
costs associated with the disaster year. In addition these loans may also be used to pay essential family living expenses.

In all cases, you are encouraged to contact your local County FSA Office for details concerning these programs.

**Federal Emergency Agency (FEMA)**

- FEMA unfortunately can’t provide assistance to farm related needs, but those whose primary home was damaged or destroyed need to register with FEMA to receive assistance.
- FEMA assistance is a non-taxable grant, not a loan.
- FEMA will inspect the property and determine the eligible repairs required to make the home safe, sanitary and secure.
- FEMA will not duplicate insurance coverage.
- There are several different methods to apply for FEMA assistance
  - You can call to Apply: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
  - The TTY number is 1-800-462-7585
  - For 711 or Video Relay Service, call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
  - For more information or to Apply: [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)
  - Or Apply on your smartphone at: [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov)
- When registering, you will need:
  - Social Security Number (including your spouse’s)
  - Private insurance information, if available
  - Address and zip code of the damaged property
  - Directions to the damaged home or property
  - Daytime telephone number
  - A telephone number where we can reach you or leave a message
  - An address where you can get mail
  - If you want your disaster assistance funds sent directly to your bank, provide the FEMA agent with your bank account type (savings/checking), account number and routing number.
- Note: Once you apply, most renters or homeowners will receive a call an application from the U.S Small Business Administration (SBA) for a Disaster Recovery Loan. Long-term low-interest Disaster Recovery Loans are the bulk of the money that could assist damage recovery, for those who qualify. Applicants who do not qualify for an SBA loan they will be referred back to FEMA for the Other Needs Assistance program.

**County Board of Supervisors**

- County Boards of Supervisors are given the ability by Mississippi law to bury poultry that have died as a result of a natural or man-made disaster. Before the board may do so, the County Board of Supervisors for that county must pass a resolution.
- Any poultry buried under such county resolution shall be buried according to the requirements and regulations of the Mississippi Board of Animal Health.

**United States Small Business Administration (SBA)**

- Offers loans for:
Home Loans – SBA regulations limit home loans to $200,000 for the repair or replacement of real estate and $40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Subject to these maximums, loan amounts cannot exceed the verified uninsured disaster loss.

Business Loans – The law limits business loans to $2,000,000 for the repair or replacement of real estate, inventories, machinery, equipment and all other physical losses. Subject to this maximum, loan amounts cannot exceed the verified uninsured disaster loss.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) – The law limits EIDLs to $2,000,000 for alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by SBA, less business interruption insurance and other recoveries up to the administrative lending limit. SBA also considers potential contributions that are available from the business and/or its owner(s) or affiliates.

Business Loan Ceiling – The $2,000,000 statutory limit for business loans applies to the combination of physical, economic injury, mitigation and refinancing, and applies to all disaster loans to a business and its affiliates for each disaster. If a business is a major source of employment, SBA has the authority to waive the $2,000,000 statutory limit.

Loan Eligibility Restrictions:

Uninsured Losses – Only uninsured or otherwise uncompensated disaster losses are eligible. Any insurance proceeds which are required to be applied against outstanding mortgages are not available to fund disaster repairs and do not reduce loan eligibility. However, any insurance proceeds voluntarily applied to any outstanding mortgages do reduce loan eligibility.

Ineligible Property – Secondary homes, personal pleasure boats, airplanes, recreational vehicles and similar property are not eligible, unless used for business purposes. Property such as antiques and collections are eligible only to the extent of their functional value. Amounts for landscaping, swimming pools, etc., are limited.

Noncompliance – Applicants who have not complied with the terms of previous SBA loans are not eligible. This includes borrowers who did not maintain flood and/or hazard insurance on previous SBA or Federally insured loans.

Note: For more information, contact SBA’s Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.

Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS)

The NRCS has a cost share program, EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) in place to assist growers in the costs of digging emergency burial pits for poultry. Producers will need to go by their local USDA Service Center in their county to sign an NRCS EQIP application. NRCS’s National Head Quarters has not gotten the money to the state level yet, but it is supposed to come any day now. If you have already paid for an
emergency burial pit, you will need to produce the following documentation to be reimbursed:

- Receipt with the cost of digging the pit
- The amount (number of birds-Estimate) of mortality placed in the pit. Producers can get the approximate number of birds from their integrators’ records.
- Provide your FSA Farm Number and FSA Tract Number with a map so that NRCS can provide a GPS number.
  
  - In case your FSA Farm Number and Tract Number were lost in the storm, your local FSA office will provide it to you. Sign an application for FSA Assistance (production loss).

- Poultry producers who lost their dry stacks and/or composters are eligible to file for EQIP funds.
  
  - NRCS recommends poultry producers who need to immediately rebuild a dry stack and/or composter, to do so, but to still apply for EQIP funding through a waiver.
  
  - Go by and see your local NRCS employees. They will provided you with assistance.
- J. J. Smith will be your contact from the Area Office.

**Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

- Victims of the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that took place beginning on April 28, 2014 in parts of Mississippi may qualify for tax relief from the Internal Revenue Service.

- The declaration permits the IRS to postpone certain deadlines for taxpayers who reside or have a business in the disaster area. For instance, certain deadlines falling on or after April 28, and on or before Oct. 15, have been postponed to Oct. 15, 2014. This includes the May 15 deadline for many tax-exempt organizations to file their annual Form 990. It also includes the June 16 and Sept. 15 deadlines for making quarterly estimated tax payments. A variety of business tax deadlines are also affected including the April 30 and July 31 deadlines for quarterly payroll and excise tax returns.

- In addition, the IRS is waiving the failure-to-deposit penalties for employment and excise tax deposits due on or after April 28, and on or before May 13, as long as the deposits are made by May 13, 2014.

- The IRS automatically identifies taxpayers located in the covered disaster area and applies automatic filing and payment relief. But affected taxpayers who reside or have a business located outside the covered disaster area must call the IRS disaster hotline at 866-562-5227 to request this tax relief.

**Mississippi State Extension**

- Dr. Tom Tabler, Extension Professor of Poultry Science.
- Office: 662-325-3472
- Cell: 479-879-3937

**Mississippi Poultry Association**

- Bill Rosenblatt, Grower Relations Coordinator
- Office: 601-932-7560
- Cell: 601-942-9269

**Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH)**
- Office: 601-359-1170

**Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH)**
- Betty Roberts, Director of Poultry Division
- 601-832-3351

**Wayne County FSA Office**
- 601-735-6651 ext 2

**Wayne County NRCS Service Center Office**
- 601-735-6651

**Winston County FSA Office**
- Office: 662-773-2207 ext 2

**Winston County NRCS Service Center Office**
- Office: 662-773-2207