

From: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
To: Leach, Clintjcleach@scda.sc.gov
Date: 10/23/2015 11:23:35 AM
Subject: Re: Agriculture Bullet Points

Thank you.
Katherine

On Oct 23, 2015, at 11:04 AM, Leach, Clint <jcleach@scda.sc.gov> wrote:

Katherine – Commissioner Weathers asked that I send you a couple key bullet points for your use, to help with questions from farmers. See below...and let me know what else y'all may need.

Clint

**South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Flood Response Message**

Agriculture was hit extremely hard by the excessive rainfall - harvest was just beginning on many fall crops like peanuts, cotton, soybeans and fall vegetables. Initial crop losses are estimated at \$300 Million.

The \$300M figure only includes direct crop loss...does not include storm damage to roads, terraces, fences, buildings and other farm infrastructure.

At this stage all farmers with crop insurance should have made contact with their agent, and hopefully, had a visit to the farm by the adjuster for the crop insurance company. If they have not, let the Commissioner know and SCDA will intervene. Crop insurance will potentially provide coverage to the crops in the field, but will not cover harvested crops that may have been stored separately in bins. Those crops stored in bins may be covered by property insurance.

We continue to work with many state and federal agencies, such as USDA – Farm Service Agency (FSA), South Carolina: (803) 806-3830, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): (803) 253-3935 and Clemson University's County Extension Agents. Since much of the state has been declared a disaster, USDA-FSA has loan programs available for qualifying producers.

As we continue to gather information, we will continue constant communication with members of our congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. Current crop insurance under the Risk Management Agency was not designed to cover the types of losses our farmers are experiencing today, so at some point soon very soon, we will be requesting congressional action to aide our losses.

Commissioner Weathers is in the planning stages of establishing an industry-driven grant assistance program to assist South Carolina's neediest of farmers. As we continue to talk to farmers about their specific needs, as well as continue to collect private-sector support; we will be communicating how "private-sector agriculture" is stepping up financially to assist our fellow farmers in need.

J. Clint Leach

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