

MISSOURI RIVER FLOOD/FARM DISASTER RELIEF FUND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

September 2011

About the Missouri River Flood/ Farm Disaster Relief Fund

The **Missouri Flood/Disaster Relief Fund** is made possible by a grant from Farm Aid in August of 2011 to the Center for Rural Affairs to provide immediate disaster relief assistance to sustainable family farmers who have experienced losses due to the Missouri River flooding. The Center for Rural Affairs based on Lyons, NE, will be reviewing applications and will issue the checks.

In order to facilitate this financial assistance to affected farmers as soon as possible, we will accept applications through October 15th, with decisions being made on a weekly basis. We have funds to provide 19 eligible applicants with up \$500 each.

Who may apply?

The purpose of these funds are to prioritize beginning and socially disadvantaged, sustainable or organic family farmers (especially those doing local and direct marketing, as well as those who do not have insurance) who have been affected by the Missouri River flood and who have suffered hardship as a result.

Organic farms are defined as farms that been certified organic by a USDA-approved certifying agency. **Sustainable farms** are defined as farms that integrate goals of environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity into their farming system. Sustainable farmers are encouraged to describe some of their activities that integrate these goals.

Family farms are farming units that are recognized as a farm rather than a rural residence, and for which the family is continually engaged in strategic management and day-to-day operational decisions, and provides a substantial amount of on-site labor to operate the farm.

Beginning farmers are those who have been farming from ten years or less.

A **socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer** is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

How much can be applied for?

Applicants can apply for a grant of up to \$500 in emergency relief toward the cost of any **uninsured loss or family expense related to the flood – for example if you had to move from your home due to the flood and had additional costs because of that.** Farmers should first ask for emergency funds that will cover immediate needs not covered by other sources.

What will we consider funding?

Damage and loss of saleable products; temporary fencing repair to open up pastures; purchase of emergency feed; organic recertification for vegetable producers; testing for contaminants from runoff; or other proposed costs that should be funded.

What we will not fund?

- Any loss that is subject to a successful insurance claim
- Any loss covered by other sources
- Any damage not resulting from the Missouri River flooding

Assessment criteria

The criteria by which the applications will be assessed are as follows:

- Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer
- Organic or sustainable family farms (please refer to above definitions)
- Amount of losses including uninsured losses
- The level of damage suffered by the property
- The extent of financial hardship
- The extent of non-financial hardship suffered
- The need of the claimant, taking into account personal circumstances such as receiving any benefits
- Other factors considered relevant.

Other considerations

Because this fund is of a discretionary nature, the decision is final. The guidelines and process will be adjusted as needed.

Please fill out the application form. Completed applications can be faxed, mailed or emailed to the Committee at:

Center for Rural Affairs in Lyons, NE. The address is on the application form.

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis until funding is gone. If you have questions, please contact Traci Bruckner or John Crabtree by calling (402) 687-2100 or emailing them both at tracib@cfra.org or johnc@cfra.org