



June 25, 2019

William Graff
Illinois Farm Service Agency State Executive Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3500 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, Illinois 62711-8287

Dear Mr. Graff:

I am writing on behalf of the tens of thousands of corn farmers in Illinois to request that you and your colleagues that comprise the Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Emergency Board recommend to Governor J.B. Pritzker as soon as possible that an agriculture disaster declaration be made that covers all Illinois counties that have been impacted. Such a declaration would allow the Governor to request additional federal assistance for farmers in counties that have been impacted by flooding and excessive rain.

We are literally experiencing a perfect storm of issues. The seemingly never-ending onslaught of heavy rains have complicated the planting season to a degree that many of our farmer members are telling us they have never experienced. The situation is already quite dire for some farmers.

A federal disaster declaration would make additional resources available to farmers in those areas that are the worst hit by the weather this year. State of Illinois Acting Illinois Emergency Management Agency Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau has said that these floods are the worst to impact the state in a quarter-century. Illinois Department of Agriculture Director John Sullivan is encouraging farmers to visit their local FSA office to report acreage as soon as possible so that an accounting of the situation can be made promptly.

We agree with Director Sullivan's assessment and will be joining him in encouraging all corn farmers, not just our members, to make an appointment with their FSA office as soon as possible to report their planted acres. The sooner the federal government can receive that data, including 'prevent plant' acres, the sooner the extent of losses to farmers and producers can be determined.

Sincerely,

Ted Mottaz
ICGA President