

Attachment 2B(1)

Explanatory Note for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report August 2, 2010

FSA has determined that the following programs receiving an appropriation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be considered categorically excluded at the programmatic level and therefore, are excluded from the preparation of environmental assessments or environmental impact statements:

- *IT Stabilization/Modernization* – funding for the stabilization and modernization of computer systems – falls under routine activities [7 CFR 1b.3(a)(1)]
 - One State project was added this reporting period and obligations were increased accordingly
- *2008 Aquaculture Assistance* – increases maximum program spending for grants to states – falls under activities which deal solely with the funding of programs [7 CFR 1b.3(a)(2)]
 - The number of projects was unchanged this reporting period, however, the obligations decreased as a few states refunded unused grant money
- *Farm Direct Operating Loans* – funding for costs associated with operating the direct farm operating program – falls under [7 CFR 1940.310(e)(1)]
 - The number of projects increased by two this reporting period, however, the total obligations decreased as some were withdrawn from the Farm Direct Operating Loans Program per the applicants request for various reasons outside of FSA's control.
- *Agriculture Disaster Relief* – provides financial assistance for qualified producers who experienced a crop loss in 2008 - falls under activities which deal solely with the funding of programs [7 CFR 1b.3(a)(2)]
 - Obligations and projects increased by 23,619 as more claims were processed and paid this reporting period

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