

Attachment 2B(1)

Explanatory Note for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report May 2, 2011

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)]
 - The numbers of projects were unchanged during this reporting period but obligations were decreased due to previous contracts being completed without the full funding level of those contracts being exercised.
- *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 numbers of projects were unchanged while obligations were slightly decreased due to applicants withdrawing their applications during this reporting period.
- *Farm Direct Operating Loans* – funding for costs associated with operating the direct farm operating program – falls under [7 CFR 1940.310(e)(1)]
 - The numbers of projects were unchanged while obligations were slightly decreased due to applicants not receiving the full funding requested on their loan application during this reporting period.
- *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 increased commensurate with the type of projects, which also increased as more claims were processed and paid this reporting period.

Please contact Matthew T. Ponish, FSA National Environmental Compliance Manager, at 202-720-6853 or matthew.ponish@wdc.usda.gov if you have additional questions.

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