

## Attachment 2B(1)

### Explanatory Note for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report November 5, 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)]
  - No projects were added under this reporting period but obligations were increased by \$37,121,912 due to full funding of contracts already in place.
- *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 and obligations were unchanged 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 number of projects and obligations were unchanged 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 by \$247,183,745 over last quarter, commensurate with the type of projects, which also increased by 27,021 as more claims were processed and paid this reporting period
- FSA's total obligations increased by \$284,851,999 over last quarter's report.

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