

Attachment 2B(1)

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

Please find enclosed the October 2011 FSA ARRA 1609 Report for the, Department of Agriculture. This report reflects the NEPA status and progress for all FSA ARRA funded projects and activities through September 30, 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 number of projects and amount obligated did not change during this reporting period.
- *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 amount obligated did not change 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 did not change but the obligations decreased by slightly due to full funding requested on some loan applications being adjusted.
- *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 funded, which also increased as more claims were processed for disaster events during this reporting period.

Please contact Matthew T. Ponish, CEPD Acting Associate Director, Farm Service Agency at 202-720-6853 or matthew.ponish@wdc.usda.gov if you have additional questions.

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