



PRESS RELEASE



State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

State Capitol – Room 434
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Phone: (573) 751-7852

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SENATOR SHOEMYER CALLS FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF FARM LOSSES DUE TO WET WEATHER

REQUESTS DISASTER DECLARATION IF LOSSES WIDESPREAD

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today called on Gov. Nixon to direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to conduct a damage assessment of counties in northeast Missouri impacted by heavy rain and flooding during the spring and early summer. Senator Shoemyer sent a letter to the governor today noting that the wet weather has prevented many farmers from completing spring planting. He says some farmers in far northeast Missouri have been unable to plant anything due to the persistent rainfall.

"Farmers and their families have been experiencing a rough time trying to get their crops planted because of the unprecedented rain the last couple of months in northeast Missouri," Sen. Shoemyer said. "We just want the government to start the process of assessing the damage to determine if a disaster declaration is justified."

To obtain a disaster declaration from the federal government, the governor must direct the FSA to collect damage assessment reports from the affected counties. If officials determine that qualifying production losses have occurred (30 percent or more), the governor would forward his request for a declaration to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The USDA's approval would make low-interest emergency loans available to qualified producers in the affected counties.

In his letter to Gov. Nixon, Sen. Shoemyer wrote, "Farmers are experiencing significant challenges, thus causing a strain on their families and their local communities. With Missouri being an agricultural state, this will directly affect our agriculture economy and those revenues that we depend on. If the damage assessments show that we do have a great agriculture loss due to the wet weather, please ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a declaration of disaster."

Senator Shoemyer sent a copy of his letter to Jon Hagler, Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

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