

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, **U.S. Representative Richard Hanna** (NY-24) announced that farmers in Chenango, Broome, Cortland, and Otsego counties affected by severe weather related to Tropical Storm Lee are eligible to apply for disaster assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

Losses were sufficient enough to warrant the USDA to declare a Secretarial disaster designation for several counties:

- **Chenango County** has been declared a primary natural disaster area due to excessive rain, flooding, and flash flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee, which occurred from Sept. 5 through Sept. 10, 2011.

- **Broome, Cortland** and **Otsego counties** have been named as contiguous disaster counties and therefore also eligible to be considered for assistance.

Producers in both primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans (EM) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE was approved as part of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 and was implemented beginning on January 4, 2010.

For EM loans, FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability. Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers and ranchers with additional information.

County Farm Service Agency information

Broome

1163 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: 607-723-1384

Chenango

99 N. Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815

Phone: 607-334-3231

Cortland/Tompkins

1 N. Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: 607-753-0851

Otsego

967 Co. Hwy. 33, Cooperstown, NY. 13326

Phone: 607-547-8131