

**§ 1945.28**

**7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-09 Edition)**

**§ 1945.28 Relationship between ASCS and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354.**

Exhibit A of FmHA Instruction 2000-JJ (a copy of which is available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office) is a Memorandum of Understanding between ASCS and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to assist in maintaining and improving the working relationship between the ASCS and the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 by coordinating certain ASCS disaster programs with the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 EM loan program. It specifically identifies the administrative responsibilities of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 County Supervisors and ASCS County Executive Directors concerning disaster benefits.

**§ 1945.29 [Reserved]**

**§ 1945.30 FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Emergency Loan Support Teams (ELST).**

(a) *Use of ELSTs.* ELSTs are to be used when a disaster warrants immediate attention by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 in implementing the EM loan program. Also, ELSTs are used when unusually large numbers of EM loan applications are received and personnel from other areas are required to be temporarily assigned to assist in rendering prompt service to the affected area(s).

(b) *State Office ELST.* Each State Director shall form an ELST to be deployed, when needed, in areas affected by a major disaster, Presidential emergency, or a natural disaster. ELSTs shall assist the State Directors in expediting the making of EM loans to disaster victims.

(1) State Directors shall use the ELSTs formed in their State(s) and all other FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 personnel within their State(s), as the need arises, in making EM loans. If additional help is needed beyond that available in the State, including the use of overtime, temporary personnel, and/or

private contractors, the State Director shall advise the National Office of these needs and request outside assistance.

(2) Upon request from a State Director, the Assistant Administrator, Farmer Programs, will consider detailing ELSTs from other States to assist in the making of EM loans.

(3) State ELSTs will consist of a team leader and team members, selected by the State Director.

(i) The State ELST can include Farmer Programs Specialists, County and Assistant County Supervisors, Program Review Assistants, County Office Assistants, and County Office Clerks.

(ii) So that no one person or County Office unit bears an unfair burden, State team members will be changed from time to time.

(iii) Team members will provide training in EM loan making and EM loan servicing to all County Office employees.

(iv) District Directors are responsible for notifying the State Director of any need to change a team member within their district.

(4) State ELSTs will be trained as follows:

(i) The National Office will hold training meetings or workshops for ELST leaders as needed; and

(ii) State ELST leaders will be responsible for training and keeping the State team and all other State personnel currently informed on all phases of EM loans.

(5) State Directors will issue a State supplement establishing an ELST for the State(s) under their jurisdiction. This supplement will name the team leader and all members. A copy of this supplement will be sent to the National Office, Attention: Director, Emergency Designation Staff.

(c) *National Office ELST leaders.* The National Office has established a cadre of ELST team leaders.

(1) National Office team leaders will be used as follows:

(i) Training of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 field personnel, other USDA personnel, and temporary personnel in the making of EM loans:

(ii) Assisting State Directors in the organization and expediting of assistance to eligible disaster victims; and

(iii) Leading ELSTs in areas with an unusually large volume of EM loan applications.

(2) Upon request from a State Director, the Assistant Administrator, Farmer Programs, will consider detailing one or more National Office team leaders to assist in the training of personnel and organizing of EM loan processing activities.

**§ 1945.31 FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Emergency Loan Assessment Teams (ELAT).**

The State Director will deploy ELATs on a continuing basis to the designated areas to monitor EM loan processing activities in order to minimize loan errors, especially in loss calculations and eligibility determinations. Such teams will be composed of State Office Farmer Programs staff members, District Directors or Assistant District Directors, Office Management Assistants/Program Review Assistants, and auditors from the Office of Inspector General, if they desire to participate. The team leader will keep the State Director informed by telephone and by submission of weekly written reports, setting forth the problems discovered and the corrective actions taken or to be taken. The State Director will keep all County and District Offices in the designated area of the State informed of the common problems found by the team and require appropriate corrective action to be taken by the County Office. Such actions will be monitored by the District Director and reported to the State Director when corrective measures have been completed. State Directors will monitor the handling of this quality control measure and will forward a copy of the ELAT team leader's report to the Administrator, Attention: Emergency Designation Staff.

**§§ 1945.32-1945.34 [Reserved]**

**§ 1945.35 Special EM loan training.**

(a) *General.* When it is evident that a large number of farmers were affected by a widespread disaster in a State, the National Office will send a qualified

representative(s) from the Emergency Designation Staff to the State to assist the State Director in conducting a training meeting(s) with State, District and County employees, provided there has not been a recent training meeting in that State.

(b) *Purpose.* A good training program is a must in disaster areas. This program should adequately instruct State and County Office personnel so that when the training is completed they will be well qualified to process EM loans without undue delay. The training meeting will last two days (16 hours) and include a workshop and a test.

(c) *Objective.* The basic objective of this training program is to keep State and County personnel properly trained in the current methods of processing EM loan applications and EM loan making. This will result in more expeditious service to disaster victims during critical times and minimize erroneous interpretations of regulations by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employees in administering the EM loan program.

(d) *Comprehensive EM loan training package.* A comprehensive EM loan training package has been developed for use by National Office and Staff Office personnel in training all EM loan writers (both regular and temporary employees). This package, including an application kit, will be used for the EM loan training meetings, and any subsequent EM loan training meetings conducted by State or District personnel.

(e) *Funding.* Travel for the two-day session required in paragraph (b) of this section may be funded from a special purpose account with advance approval from the Budget Division. The following information must be provided to the Budget Division when a request is made for these additional travel funds:

(1) Number of sessions.

(2) Categories, by number, of personnel attending each session.

(3) Estimated cost per session.

**§§ 1945.36-1945.44 [Reserved]**

**§ 1945.45 Public information function.**

A good public information program is a must in disaster areas. This program