



**Major Flooding  
Texas  
May 30th - June 5th 2015  
ESF #11 After Action Report (AAR)**



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**Incident Summary**

The State of Texas was impacted by major flooding starting in mid-May 2015 and continuing into June. The State of Texas requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration which was approved on May 29, 2015. Due to the massive agricultural impacts and specific questions concerning USDA assistance from the Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief, the FEMA Federal Coordinator Officer (FCO) requested activation of ESF #11 on May 30, 2015.

Upon arrival at the FEMA/State Initial Operating Facility in Austin, TX on May 31<sup>st</sup>, the FCO briefed the ESF #11 Coordinator on the State's concerns about agricultural impacts. The FCO then directed the ESF #11 Coordinator to prepare a summary explanation of all USDA major disaster relief programs including triggers, funding mechanisms, etc. The FCO acknowledged that many of the USDA programs may be more recovery oriented but needed the summary information only two days into the official federal response. The ESF #11 Coordinator worked with the USDA agency leads in Texas for Food & Nutrition Service (FNS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD) to develop a summary document of each agency's disaster assistance programs and that was provided to the FCO on 06/05/15. Coordination with FNS, FSA, NRCS and RD included in-face meetings with emergency management personnel of each agency. The ESF #11 Coordinator also communicated with the USDA Disaster Recovery Coordinator throughout the process.

While the typical ESF #11 response activities during activations were minimal, the ESF #11 Coordinator communicated daily with federal and State partners during the activation to ensure there were no shortfalls or critical issues.

**Lessons Learned**

**Things that worked well:**

- 1) Communications between the ESF #11 Coordinator and all ESF #11 stakeholders worked very well including deployment thru ROSS Dispatch on a weekend.
- 2) Cooperation from the USDA agencies of FNS, FSA, NRCS and RD to develop and prepare the final summary document with a very short turnaround.

**Things that could use improvement:**

- 1) It would be helpful if USDA could maintain this type of summary document and update annually. While some of the information was specific to relief in Texas, many of the disaster programs are applicable nation-wide.