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news release

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STARR COUNTY ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

(WASHINGTON, D C) - South Texas Congressman Kika de la Garza announced today that he has been notified by U S Agriculture Secretary Ed Madigan's of his official designation of Starr County as a natural disaster area as a result of tornado damage suffered in May. "I commend the Secretary for his decision, as this now means eligible family farmers may qualify for much needed Farmer's Home Administration emergency loan assistance," de la Garza said.

In a letter from Mr Madigan, the Secretary said, "Based on our review, we have determined that Starr County sustained sufficient production losses due to the tornado to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am hereby designating Starr County as a natural disaster area."

In addition to Starr County, Secretary Madigan named Brooks, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg and Zapata as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for physical and production loss loan assistance. This disaster designation makes Farmers Home Administration emergency loans available in the affected counties and does not ensure family farmers eligibility for such loans. Emergency loan applications will be approved on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the extent of losses, security available, repayment ability and other eligibility requirements.