



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Risk
Management
Agency

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BULLETIN NO.: MGR-11-010

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
All Other Interested Parties

FROM: William J. Murphy /s/ *William J. Murphy* 7/22/2011
Administrator

SUBJECT: Flooding of the Dyer County, Tennessee Levee and Drainage
District

BACKGROUND:

The Dyer County, Tennessee Little Levee is a part of the Dyer County, Tennessee Levee and Drainage District. This levee system is located in United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Memphis District. The Little Levee is intended to protect approximately 20 square miles of mostly agricultural land in Dyer County, Tennessee from the waters from the Mississippi River. The Little Levee is located near the Obion River.

According to a survey conducted on March 27, 2008 by the USACE, approximately five and one half (5 ½) miles of the levee were projected to be overtopped by the Mississippi River at stages above forty-four (44) feet on the Caruthersville, Missouri gauge.

On April 26, 2011, the National Weather Service forecast a crest of forty-eight feet (48) on the Caruthersville, Missouri gauge by May 7, 2011. A decision was made by the Dyer County Levee and Drainage District #1 Board, in conjunction with the USACE, to breach the levee on the south end on April 27, 2011.

Within days, there was a natural breach in the levee. The Mississippi River reached crest at approximately forty-seven and one half (47 ½) feet on the Caruthersville, Missouri gauge. There are now twelve natural breaches in the Dyer County Little Levee and at the crest of the floodwaters, less than one-fifth of the entire length of the Little Levee was above water.



The Risk Management Agency Administers
And Oversees All Programs Authorized Under
The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

The Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions (11-BR) (Basic Provisions), Section 12 Causes of Loss., states:

“Insurance is provided only to protect against unavoidable, naturally occurring events.”

ACTION:

The survey conducted by the USACE indicated that flooding of significant amounts of cropland was inevitable with or without the breaching of the Little Levee due to the severity of this flood event.

Therefore, such flooding is caused by unavoidable, naturally occurring events and is insurable under the Basic Provisions and the individual Crop Provisions for crop programs applicable to this area.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2011.