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South West farmers urged to apply for flood grants

The NSW Farmers' Association welcomes the announcement of one- off grants to help farmers affected by flooding in the State's South West.

NSW Farmers' Association Executive Councillor Sam Archer says many farmers have only just recovered from drought.

"Grants of up to \$15,000 will help farmers who've watched their crops and pastures come out of drought, only to go underwater," Mr Archer said.

"The one- off payments will allow farmers to repair damage to property access, fences and internal roads, farm buildings and infrastructure.

"The grants also allow for the purchase of fodder and livestock disposal," Mr Archer said.

Farmers within the 18 areas declared Natural Disaster zones are eligible for the funding.

Properties must be located in Albury, Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Greater Hume, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Urana, Corowa, Jerilderie, Gundagai, Tumut, Tumbarumba or Wagga Wagga.

Applicants will also need to use their tax returns to show at least 51 percent of their income is derived from the farm.

"These floods have come at a time when farmers were hoping to take advantage of the best conditions in a decade," Mr Archer said.

"It's encouraging to see the State and Federal Governments recognising many are yet to recoup losses endured during the drought," Mr Archer said.

The Association is urging everyone affected to lodge their applications with the NSW Rural Assistance Authority before the 30 April 2011 cut off.

For application details please call the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit the website www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Contact: Olivia Suzanski (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

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