27-1598A-06 See HB

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to agricultural disaster
3	assistance; amending s. 570.249, F.S.;
4	expanding the conditions under which loan funds
5	to certain agricultural producers may be
6	granted; increasing the maximum amount of a
7	loan; providing definitions; providing an
8	appropriation; providing an effective date.
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10	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12	Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 570.249, Florida
13	Statutes, is amended to read:
14	570.249 Agricultural Economic Development Program
15	disaster loans and grants and aid
16	(1) USE OF LOAN FUNDS
17	(a) Loan funds to agricultural producers who have
18	experienced crop losses from a natural disaster or a
19	socioeconomic condition or event may be used to:
20	1. Restore, or remove debris from
21	essential physical property., such as animals, fences,
22	equipment, structural production facilities, and orchard
23	trees;
24	2. Pay all or part of production costs associated with
25	the disaster year <u>.</u> ÷
26	3. Pay essential family living expenses. + and
27	4. Restructure farm debts.
28	(b) Funds may be issued as direct loans, or as loan
29	guarantees for up to 90 percent of the total loan, in amounts
30	not less than \$30,000 nor more than \$300,000 \$250,000.
31	Applicants must provide at least 10 percent equity.

1	(c) For purposes of this subsection, the term:
2	1. "Losses" means crop loss or damage to an
3	agricultural facility or infrastructure or farmworker housing
4	owned by an agricultural producer.
5	2. "Essential physical property" means animals,
6	fences, equipment, structural production facilities, other
7	agricultural facility or infrastructure or farmworker housing
8	owned by an agricultural producer, and orchard trees.
9	Section 2. The sum of \$50 million is appropriated from
10	the General Revenue Fund to the General Inspection Trust Fund
11	within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for
12	fiscal year 2006-2007 for the purpose of providing loan funds
13	under s. 570.249, Florida Statutes, to agricultural producers
14	who experienced losses during the 2005 calendar year.
15	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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