

Chase is among the counties whose small, non-farm businesses are also eligible for federal low interest disaster loans due to the drought.

Administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), these loans are designed to offset economic losses due to the drought that began July 24.

According to SBA's Alfred Judd, these loans would help with the economic impact on businesses that are dependent on farmers and ranchers, who in turn, have suffered losses from the drought.

Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only, and not on any actual property damage. Interest rates are 4 percent for businesses and 3 percent for private, nonprofit organizations.

Neighboring counties in Colorado, including Phillips, Logan, Sedgwick, Weld and Yuma, also are eligible because they are contiguous to the eligible Nebraska counties.

The SBA can be contacted at 800-659-2955, or by email at: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

Application deadline is April 1, 2013.