

# Storms Strike Again

In July, strong winds caused \$5.4 million in damages in Black Hawk County. Now that an official assessment has been made, Governor Culver has made a request to President Obama for a presidential disaster declaration so that federal assistance can be obtained.

On July 10, 2009, severe weather caused considerable damage throughout Black Hawk County. On July 17, Governor Culver signed an emergency proclamation for Black Hawk County to provide state assistance in recovery efforts.

The request to President Obama is for the Public Assistance program, which is used to rebuild infrastructure for public and certain non-profit agencies. The request first

goes to the FEMA Regional Office in Kansas City and then to Washington D.C. where it is reviewed before going on to the White House.

If granted, this would be the eighth presidential disaster declaration for Iowa over the past three years.

In addition, because of the Governor's disaster proclamation of July 17, Iowa's individual disaster assistance program has been activated in Black Hawk County. This program helps people with household incomes of up to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. They may apply for a reimbursement grant of up to \$5,000 to help recover from storm damage. To find out more, visit the Department of Human Services Website at [www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us) and click

on "Storm Help." The deadline for application is Sept. 1, 2009.

## ***Hailstorms***

Last month, hailstorms caused severe damage to several Northeast Iowa counties. As a result, Governor Chet Culver has asked affected farmers to contact their local county Farm Service Agency office with damage estimates and for the Farm Service Agency to conclude their process on making recommendations for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration as quickly as possible. Once that process is complete, the Governor will formally ask U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to declare the designated counties as disaster areas.