

10541



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250



OCT 17 2012

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard
Governor
State of South Dakota
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Gov
Aox
DPS
Nathan
Glad/matt
} Fiji
10/20/12

Dear Governor Daugaard:

On September 18, 2012, the South Dakota State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested primary county disaster designations for Brookings, Clark, Codington, Hamlin, Jerauld, and Kingsbury Counties, South Dakota, due to losses caused by drought and other disasters that occurred during the 2012 crop year.

USDA has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and has determined that there were sufficient production losses in five counties to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all counties, except Jerauld County, as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by the combined effects of drought, excessive heat, frosts, and freezes that occurred during the period of May 8, 2012, and continuing.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Beadle, Day, Deuel, Grant, Lake, Miner, Moody, Sanborn, and Spink Counties, South Dakota, are named as contiguous disaster counties.

On September 12, 2012, I designated Jerauld County, South Dakota, as a primary natural disaster area in accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a) due to a recent drought and related disasters.

Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Lincoln and Pipestone Counties, in the adjacent State of Minnesota, are named as contiguous disaster areas.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary