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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

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

Dear Governor Daugaard:

With the publication of the final rule of the disaster designation on July 12, 2012, found at 7 CFR 759, I am designating Kingsbury County, South Dakota, as a primary natural disaster area in accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a) due to a recent drought.

Kingsbury County has suffered from a drought intensity value of at least D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks or D3 (Drought-Extreme) or higher at any time during the growing season according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>).

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, seven counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Beadle	Clark	Lake	Sanborn
Brookings	Hamlin	Miner	

All other South Dakota counties that would be eligible under 7 CFR 759.5(a) already have been designated as primary natural disaster counties.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (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
Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary