

USDA 10609

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250



OCT 24 2012

Nathan - FYI  
Ag

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 two South Dakota counties as primary natural disaster areas in accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a) due to a recent drought. The primary counties included under this designation are:

Day Grant

These counties have 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:

Brown	Codington	Marshall	Spink
Clark	Deuel	Roberts	

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

Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent State are named as contiguous disaster areas. The State and counties are:

**Minnesota (2):** Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard  
Page 2

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  
Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Secretary  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250



3301