USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

OCT 12 2011

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad
Governor
State of Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

Thank you for your letters of September 12 and September 15, 2011, requesting a disaster designation for 27 Iowa counties due to disasters that have occurred during the 2011 crop year.

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 27 Iowa counties as primary natural disaster areas because of damage and losses caused by the combined effects of severe storms, excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding, hail, high winds, lightning, tornadoes, landslides, mudslides, excessive heat, and drought that occurred from April 1, 2011, and continuing. Those counties are:

Clarke	Jones	Mahaska	Montgomery	Van Buren
Davis	Keokuk	Marshall	Page	Wapello
Decatur	Lee	Mills	Polk	Washington
Fremont	Linn	Monona	Tama	Wayne
Henry	Louisa	Monroe	Taylor	Woodbury
Jefferson	Lucas			

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Adams	Cedar	Dubuque	Jasper	Pottawattamie
Appanoose	Cherokee	Grundy	Johnson	Poweshiek
Benton	Clinton	Hardin	Madison	Ringgold
Black Hawk	Crawford	Harrison	Marion	Story
Boone	Dallas	Ida	Muscatine	Union
Buchanan	Delaware	Iowa	Plymouth	Warren
Cass	Des Moines	Jackson		

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. 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. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary