USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

AUG 1 2012

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

Dear Governor Branstad:

With the publication of the final rule of the disaster designation on July 12, 2012, found at 7 CFR 759, I am designating 42 Iowa 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:

Appanoose	Cedar	Fayette	Jasper	Lucas	Poweshiek
Benton	Clayton	Grundy	Jefferson	Mahaska	Scott
Black Hawk	Clinton	Hamilton	Johnson	Marion	Story
Boone	Davis	Hardin	Jones	Marshall	Tama
Bremer	Delaware	Henry	Keokuk	Monroe	Van Buren
Buchanan	Des Moines	Iowa	Lee	Muscatine	Wapello
Butler	Dubuque	Jackson	Linn	Polk	Wayne

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, 16 counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Allamakee	Dallas	Greene	Washington
Cerro Gordo	Decatur	Louisa	Webster
Chickasaw	Floyd	Madison	Winneshiek
Clarke	Franklin	Warren	Wright

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