



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 10 2014

The Honorable Rick Snyder  
Governor  
State of Michigan  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

On June 26, 2014, the State Executive Director of the Michigan Farm Service Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for 60 Michigan counties, due to losses caused by excessive snow, freeze, frost, high winds, extremely cold temperatures, record snowfall, ice, and blizzards that occurred from January 1 through May 17, 2014.

At that time, USDA was unable to make a complete and accurate determination of production losses for the current crop year. On December 2, 2014, the Michigan State Office notified the National Office that all Loss Assessment Reports were complete, and 54 of the original 60 counties are requesting a primary disaster designation.

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses in all 54 counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all 54 Michigan counties named below as primary natural disaster areas. Those counties are:

Alger	Delta	Lake	Menominee	Presque Isle
Allegan	Emmet	Lapeer	Midland	Saginaw
Antrim	Genesee	Leelanau	Missaukee	St. Clair
Baraga	Gladwin	Livingston	Monroe	St. Joseph
Benzie	Grand Traverse	Luce	Montcalm	Sanilac
Berrien	Hillsdale	Mackinac	Oakland	Schoolcraft
Cass	Houghton	Macomb	Oceana	Van Buren
Charlevoix	Huron	Manistee	Ontonagon	Washtenaw
Cheboygan	Ingham	Marquette	Osceola	Wayne
Chippewa	Jackson	Mason	Otsego	Wexford
Clare	Kalamazoo	Mecosta	Ottawa	

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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:

Alpena	Eaton	Lenawee
Arenac	Gogebic	Montmorency
Barry	Gratiot	Muskegon
Bay	Ionia	Newaygo
Branch	Iron	Ogemaw
Calhoun	Isabella	Oscoda
Clinton	Kalkaska	Roscommon
Crawford	Kent	Shiawassee
Dickinson	Keweenaw	Tuscola

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those States, counties, and numbers are:

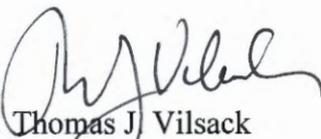
**Contiguous counties in Adjacent States:**

<b>Indiana</b>	<b>(5)</b>	
Elkhart	LaPorte	Steuben
Lagrange	St. Joseph	
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>(3)</b>	
Fulton	Lucas	Williams
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>(2)</b>	
Door	Marinette	

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 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 loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary