



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

November 19, 2015

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor
State of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 2015, requesting a disaster designation for Ohio counties that suffered losses due to excessive rain that occurred in the 2015 crop year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses in 68 counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 68 Ohio counties as primary natural disaster areas due to damage and losses caused by the combined effects of excessive rain, flash flooding, flooding, excessive heat, landslides, mudslides, high winds, hail, and lightning that occurred during the period of March 1 through August 25, 2015. Those counties are:

Adams	Fulton	Logan	Portage
Allen	Gallia	Lorain	Preble
Ashtabula	Geauga	Lucas	Putnam
Auglaize	Greene	Marion	Sandusky
Belmont	Guernsey	Medina	Shelby
Brown	Hamilton	Meigs	Stark
Butler	Hancock	Mercer	Summit
Carroll	Hardin	Monroe	Trumbull
Clermont	Harrison	Montgomery	Tuscarawas
Clinton	Henry	Morgan	Union
Columbiana	Highland	Morrow	Van Wert
Coshocton	Holmes	Muskingum	Vinton
Crawford	Jackson	Noble	Warren
Defiance	Knox	Ottawa	Washington
Delaware	Lake	Paulding	Wayne
Fairfield	Lawrence	Perry	Wood
Fayette	Licking	Pickaway	Wyandot

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:

Ashland	Darke	Jefferson	Richland
Athens	Erie	Madison	Ross
Champaign	Franklin	Mahoning	Scioto
Clark	Hocking	Miami	Seneca
Cuyahoga	Huron	Pike	Williams

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:

Indiana	(8)		
Adams	Dearborn	Franklin	Union
Allen	DeKalb	Jay	Wayne
Kentucky	(9)		
Boone	Campbell	Lewis	
Boyd	Greenup	Mason	
Bracken	Kenton	Pendleton	
Michigan	(3)		
Hillsdale	Lenawee	Monroe	
Pennsylvania	(5)		
Beaver	Erie	Mercer	
Crawford	Lawrence		
West Virginia	(11)		
Cabell	Marshall	Pleasants	Wetzel
Hancock	Mason	Tyler	Wood
Jackson	Ohio	Wayne	

The Honorable John Kasich
Page 3

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 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