



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

November 13, 2023

THE HONORABLE BRIAN KEMP
Governor
State of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating five Georgia counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

Other counties in Georgia may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

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 eight 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

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR GEORGIA AND CONTIGUOUS STATES

Primary Counties

Georgia	(5)			
Decatur	Early	Miller	Seminole	Union

Contiguous Counties:

Georgia	(9)		
Baker	Fannin	Mitchell	
Calhoun	Grady	Towns	
Clay	Lumpkin	White	

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Alabama	(2)
Henry	Houston

Florida	(2)
Gadsden	Jackson

North Carolina	(2)
Cherokee	Clay