



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL 25 2012

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor
State of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Governor Walker:

With the publication of the final rule of the disaster designation on July 12, 2012, found at 7 CFR 759, I am designating 23 Wisconsin 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:

Adams	Fond du Lac	Jefferson	Ozaukee	Sauk
Columbia	Grant	Kenosha	Racine	Walworth
Crawford	Green	Lafayette	Richland	Washington
Dane	Green Lake	Marquette	Rock	Waukesha
Dodge	Iowa	Milwaukee		

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

Calumet	Portage	Vernon	Winnebago
Juneau	Sheboygan	Waushara	Wood

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