



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

November 12, 2020

The Honorable Phil Scott
Governor
State of Vermont
Montpelier, Vermont 05609

Dear Governor Scott:

On October 8, 2020, the Vermont State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for nine Vermont counties due to losses caused by a drought that occurred from June 1, 2020, and continuing.

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating all nine counties as primary natural disaster areas. 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Vermont and Contiguous States

Primary Counties:

Vermont	(9)		
Addison	Chittenden	Washington	
Bennington	Essex	Windham	
Caledonia	Orange	Windsor	

Contiguous Counties:

Vermont	(5)		
Franklin	Lamoille	Rutland	
Grand Isle	Orleans		

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:

Massachusetts	(2)			
Berkshire	Franklin			
New Hampshire	(4)			
Cheshire	Coos	Grafton	Sullivan	
New York	(4)			
Clinton	Essex	Rensselaer	Washington	