



News Release

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USDA Designates 19 Counties in Georgia as Primary Natural Disaster Area with Assistance to Producers in Florida

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2017 — In response to a request from Dianne Westmoreland, Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) acting State Executive Director in Georgia, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 19 counties in Georgia as primary natural disaster areas due to losses and damages caused by freeze that occurred from March 15, 2017, through March 18, 2017. Those counties are:

Appling	Brooks	Echols	McIntosh
Atkinson	Camden	Jeff Davis	Pierce
Bacon	Charlton	Lanier	Ware
Berrien	Clinch	Long	Wayne
Brantley	Coffee	Lowndes	

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in **Georgia** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are:

Ben Hill	Liberty	Thomas
Colquitt	Montgomery	Tift
Cook	Tattnell	Toombs
Glynn	Telfair	Wheeler
Irwin		

Farmers and ranchers in Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and Nassau counties in **Florida** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on May 3, 2017, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for FSA’s emergency (EM) loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Other FSA programs that can provide assistance, but do not require a disaster declaration, include [Operating and Farm Ownership Loans](#); the [Emergency Conservation Program](#); [Livestock](#)

Forage Disaster Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program; and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA service centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA news releases are available on FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov via the "Newsroom" link.

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