



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

November 6, 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 11 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	(11)		
Bartow	Fannin	Gordon	Pickens
Cherokee	Floyd	Lumpkin	Whitfield
Dawson	Gilmer	Murray	

Contiguous Counties:

Georgia	(11)		
Catoosa	Forsyth	Paulding	Walker
Chattooga	Fulton	Polk	White
Cobb	Hall	Union	

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Alabama	(1)		
Cherokee			
North Carolina	(1)		
Cherokee			
Tennessee	(3)		
Bradley	Hamilton	Polk	