



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

AUG 15 2012

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor
State of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

With the publication of the final rule of the disaster designation on July 12, 2012, found at 7 CFR 759, I am designating 9 Ohio 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:

Butler	Hamilton	Preble
Defiance	Henry	Putnam
Fulton	Paulding	Van Wert

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

Allen	Hancock	Warren
Auglaize	Lucas	Williams
Clermont	Mercer	Wood
Darke	Montgomery	

Also, 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:

Indiana (7) Adams, Allen, Dearborn, DeKalb, Franklin, Union, and Wayne

Kentucky (3) Boone, Campbell, and Kenton

Michigan (2) Hillsdale and Lenawee

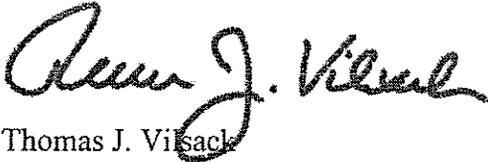
The Honorable John Kasich

Page 2

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary