USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 29 2012

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor
State of Michigan
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

This is an additional response to your letter of May 25, 2012, requesting a disaster designation for 72 Michigan counties due to losses caused by the combined effects of blizzards, excessive snow, excessive heat, excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, tornadoes, flooding, and lightning that occurred during the period of January 1, through May 11, 2012. Those counties are:

Alcona	Eaton	Lenawee	Oceana
Alger	Emmet	Livingston	Ogemaw
Allegan	Genesee	Luce	Osceola
Alpena	Gladwin	Mackinac	Oscoda
Antrim	Grand Traverse	Macomb	Otsego
Arenac	Hillsdale	Manistee	Ottawa
Barry	Huron	Marquette	Presque Isle
Bay	Ingham	Mason	Roscommon
Benzie	Ionia	Mecosta	St. Clair
Berrien	Iosco	Menominee	St. Joseph
Cass	Iron	Midland	Sanilac
Charlevoix	Jackson	Missaukee	Schoolcraft
Cheboygan	Kalamazoo	Monroe	Shiawassee
Chippewa	Kalkaska	Montcalm	Tuscola
Clare	Kent	Montmorency	Van Buren
Crawford	Lake	Muskegon	Washtenaw
Delta	Lapeer	Newaygo	Wayne
Dickinson	Leelanau	Oakland	Wexford

On June 12, 2012, I approved your request to defer the decision to designate those counties until the loss assessment reports became available.

The Department of Agriculture has now reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all 72 Michigan counties named above as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Baraga, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Gogebic, Gratiot, Houghton, Isabella, Ontonagon, and Saginaw Counties, Michigan, are named as contiguous disaster counties.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for 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