



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 17, 2014

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

Dear Governor Kasich:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 2014, requesting a primary disaster designation for seven Ohio counties, due to freeze that occurred from January 2, 2014, through April 17, 2014. Those counties are:

Ashtabula	Jackson	Lorain	Summit
Geauga	Lake	Portage	

At the time of your request, the State Executive Director of the Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) requested that the designation be deferred until a complete and accurate determination of production losses for the current crop year could be made. On August 29, 2014, the Ohio State office notified the National Office that all Loss Assessment Reports were complete.

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses in all seven counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all seven Ohio counties named above as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Ashland	Gallia	Mahoning	Ross	Trumbull
Cuyahoga	Huron	Medina	Scioto	Vinton
Erie	Lawrence	Pike	Stark	Wayne

The Honorable John Kasich
Page 2

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent State are named as contiguous disaster areas. That State, counties, and number are:

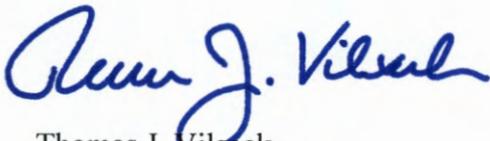
Contiguous counties in an Adjacent State:

Pennsylvania	(2)
Crawford	Erie

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 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,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary