



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 24 2011

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
State of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letters requesting disaster designations for all 254 Texas counties due to losses caused by drought and related disasters that occurred in 2011.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports for all 254 counties and determined that there were sufficient production losses in 213 counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 213 Texas counties as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought, excessive heat, high winds, and wildfires that occurred during the period of January 1, 2011, and continuing. Those counties are:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Anderson | Cochran | Galveston | Jim Hogg | Midland | Scurry |
| Andrews | Coke | Garza | Jim Wells | Mills | Shackelford |
| Angelina | Coleman | Gillespie | Johnson | Mitchell | Shelby |
| Aransas | Collin | Glasscock | Jones | Montgomery | Sherman |
| Archer | Collingsworth | Goliad | Karnes | Moore | Smith |
| Armstrong | Colorado | Gonzales | Kendall | Morris | Somervell |
| Atascosa | Comal | Gray | Kenedy | Motley | Starr |
| Austin | Comanche | Gregg | Kent | Nacogdoches | Stephens |
| Bailey | Concho | Grimes | Kerr | Newton | Sterling |
| Bandera | Cooke | Guadalupe | Kimble | Nolan | Stonewall |
| Bastrop | Coryell | Hale | King | Ochiltree | Sutton |
| Baylor | Cottle | Hall | Kleberg | Oldham | Swisher |
| Bee | Crockett | Hamilton | Knox | Orange | Taylor |
| Bell | Crosby | Hansford | La Salle | Palo Pinto | Terrell |
| Blanco | Culberson | Hardeman | Lamar | Panola | Throckmorton |
| Bosque | Dallam | Hardin | Lamb | Parker | Titus |
| Bowie | De Witt | Harris | Lampasas | Parmer | Tom Green |
| Brazoria | Deaf Smith | Harrison | Lavaca | Pecos | Travis |
| Brazos | Delta | Hartley | Lee | Polk | Trinity |
| Brewster | Denton | Haskell | Leon | Potter | Tyler |
| Briscoe | Dickens | Hays | Liberty | Presidio | Upshur |
| Brooks | Donley | Hemphill | Limestone | Rains | Upton |

Brown	Duval	Hidalgo	Lipscomb	Randall	Val Verde
Burleson	Eastland	Hockley	Live Oak	Reagan	Victoria
Burnet	Edwards	Hood	Loving	Reeves	Walker
Caldwell	El Paso	Hopkins	Lubbock	Refugio	Waller
Calhoun	Ellis	Houston	Lynn	Roberts	Washington
Callahan	Erath	Howard	Madison	Robertson	Webb
Cameron	Fayette	Hudspeth	Marion	Rusk	Wheeler
Camp	Fisher	Hutchinson	Martin	Sabine	Wichita
Cass	Floyd	Irion	McCulloch	San Augustine	Wilbarger
Castro	Foard	Jack	McLennan	San Jacinto	Willacy
Chambers	Fort Bend	Jackson	McMullen	San Patricio	Wood
Cherokee	Franklin	Jasper	Medina	San Saba	Young
Childress	Freestone	Jeff Davis	Menard	Schleicher	Zapata
Clay	Frio	Jefferson			

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:

Bexar	Ector	Hunt	Milam	Runnels	Williamson
Borden	Falls	Kaufman	Montague	Tarrant	Wilson
Carson	Fannin	Kinney	Navarro	Terry	Winkler
Crane	Gaines	Llano	Nueces	Uvalde	Wise
Dallas	Grayson	Mason	Real	Van Zandt	Yoakum
Dawson	Henderson	Matagorda	Red River	Ward	Zavala
Dimmit	Hill	Maverick	Rockwall	Wharton	

On April 4, 2011, I approved Milam County as a primary natural disaster area due to drought. Therefore, Milam County is already eligible for all available Farm Service Agency (FSA) assistance for this disaster.

None of the remaining 40 remaining Texas counties sustained a 30-percent or greater crop production loss due to the disaster. Therefore, I am unable to approve your request to designate those counties as primary natural disaster areas. Those counties are:

Bexar	Ector	Hunt	Montague	Tarrant	Williamson
Borden	Falls	Kaufman	Navarro	Terry	Wilson
Carson	Fannin	Kinney	Nueces	Uvalde	Winkler
Crane	Gaines	Llano	Real	Van Zandt	Wise
Dallas	Grayson	Mason	Red River	Ward	Yoakum
Dawson	Henderson	Matagorda	Rockwall	Wharton	Zavala
Dimmit	Hill	Maverick	Runnels		

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However, all of those counties will be eligible for FSA loan assistance since they are named as contiguous counties for this disaster, as indicated above.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers in eligible counties have eight 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. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Wilsack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Wilsack
Secretary