



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 30 2011

The Honorable Jack A. Markell  
Governor  
State of Delaware  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Governor Markell:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2011, requesting a disaster designation for Delaware counties due to drought and related conditions that occurred in the 2011 crop year.

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses in two counties to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware, as primary natural disaster areas due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat that occurred from June 1 through August 30, 2011.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, New Castle County, Delaware, is named as a contiguous disaster county.

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 and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. 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. 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 Vilsack", written over a circular stamp.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary