



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

October 4, 2021

The Honorable Pete Ricketts
Governor
State of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Governor Ricketts:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating six Nebraska counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

Other counties in Nebraska may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

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 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Nebraska and Contiguous States

Primary Counties:

Nebraska	(6)		
Banner	Keya Paha	Scotts Bluff	
Box Butte	Morrill	Sioux	

Contiguous Counties:

Nebraska	(10)				
Boyd	Cherry	Dawes	Holt	Rock	
Brown	Cheyenne	Garden	Kimball	Sheridan	

In addition, 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:

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

South Dakota	(4)			
Fall River	Gregory	Todd	Tripp	
Wyoming	(3)			
Goshen	Laramie	Niobrara		