



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 20, 2021

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Governor
State of South Dakota
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Governor Noem:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating one South Dakota county as a primary natural disasters area due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), this county 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 an adjacent state 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 South Dakota 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 South Dakota and a Contiguous State

Primary County:

South Dakota **(1)**
Lawrence

Contiguous Counties:

South Dakota **(3)**
Butte Meade Pennington

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:

Wyoming **(2)**
Crook Weston