



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

OCT 1 2014

The Honorable Pat McCrory  
Governor  
State of North Carolina  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Dear Governor McCrory:

On September 18, 2014, the North Carolina State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency requested a primary county disaster designation for Jones and Onslow Counties in North Carolina, due to damages and losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred from July 3, 2014, and continuing.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Jones and Onslow Counties in North Carolina as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Lenoir, and Pender Counties in North Carolina are named as contiguous disaster counties.

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 black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary