



Office of the Under Secretary
for Farm Production and Conservation
Washington, D.C. 20250

April 10, 2026

THE HONORABLE JOSH STEIN
Governor
State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Stein:

Per 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 40 North Carolina counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

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.

Per 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.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loan assistance, provided eligibility requirements are met. 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, appearing to read "BSA", is positioned above the printed name of the Deputy Under Secretary.

Brooke S. Appleton
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure
cc: Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture

Primary Counties:

North Carolina (40)

Alamance	Edgecombe	Lincoln	Richmond
Alexander	Franklin	Macon	Rowan
Bertie	Gaston	Madison	Sampson
Cabarrus	Guilford	Martin	Stanly
Cherokee	Halifax	Mecklenburg	Swain
Clay	Harnett	Nash	Union
Cleveland	Haywood	Northampton	Warren
Cumberland	Iredell	Orange	Wilkes
Davie	Johnston	Person	Wilson
Duplin	Lee	Randolph	Yadkin

Contiguous Counties:

North Carolina (42)

Alleghany	Chowan	Jones	Scotland
Anson	Davidson	Lenoir	Stokes
Ashe	Durham	Montgomery	Surry
Beaufort	Forsyth	Moore	Transylvania
Bladen	Graham	Onslow	Vance
Buncombe	Granville	Pender	Wake
Burke	Greene	Pitt	Washington
Caldwell	Henderson	Robeson	Watauga
Caswell	Hertford	Rockingham	Wayne
Catawba	Hoke	Rutherford	Yancey
Chatham	Jackson		

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Georgia	(4)		
Fannin	Rabun	Towns	Union
South Carolina	(6)		
Cherokee	Lancaster	Oconee	
Chesterfield	Marlboro	York	
Tennessee	(7)		
Blount	Greene	Polk	Unicoi
Cocke	Monroe	Sevier	
Virginia	(5)		
Brunswick	Halifax	Southampton	
Greensville	Mecklenburg		