



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

September 5, 2023

THE HONORABLE PHILIP SCOTT
Governor
State of Vermont
109 State Street
Pavilion Office Building
Montpelier, Vermont 05609

Dear Governor Scott:

Thank you for your letter of July 14, 2023, requesting a primary county disaster designation for 14 counties in the state of Vermont due to damage and losses caused by flooding and excessive rain that occurred from July 9 through July 16, 2023.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating all 14 Vermont counties as primary natural disaster areas. 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.

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 loans, 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,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure

DISASTER AREAS FOR VERMONT AND CONTIGUOUS STATES

Primary Counties:

Vermont	(14)		
Addison	Essex	Orange	Washington
Bennington	Franklin	Orleans	Windham
Caledonia	Grand Isle	Rutland	Windsor
Chittenden	Lamoille		

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Massachusetts	(2)		
Berkshire	Franklin		
New Hampshire	(4)		
Cheshire	Coos	Grafton	Sullivan
New York	(4)		
Clinton	Essex	Rensselaer	Washington