



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAR 18 2020

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Governor
State of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

On February 28, 2020, the Arkansas State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for two Arkansas counties due to losses caused by excessive rain that occurred during the 2020 crop year.

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 both Arkansas counties as primary natural disaster areas, in two separate disaster designations. 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 these disasters.

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 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 "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Arkansas and Contiguous States

Designation Number 1: Excessive rain that occurred during January 10 through January 12, 2020:

Primary County:

Arkansas (1)
Mississippi

Contiguous Counties:

Arkansas (3)
Craighead Crittenden Poinsett

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Missouri (2)
Dunklin Pemiscot

Tennessee (4)
Dyer Shelby
Lauderdale Tipton

Designation Number 2: Excessive rain that occurred during February 10 through February 15, 2020:

Primary County:

Arkansas (1)
Drew

Contiguous Counties:

Arkansas (6)
Ashley Chicot Desha
Bradley Cleveland Lincoln