



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 2 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor
State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On November 18, 2015, the South Carolina State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for five South Carolina counties due to losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred from October 1, 2015, and continuing. Those counties are:

Cherokee	Greenville	Pickens	Spartanburg	Union
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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 five counties named above as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Abbeville	Chester	Laurens	Oconee
Anderson	Fairfield	Newberry	York

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 numbers are:

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

North Carolina	(5)			
Cleveland	Henderson	Polk	Rutherford	Transylvania

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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,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary