

From: Veldran, Katherine

To: John Hazzard <johnhazzard@scsenate.gov>

Date: 12/9/2015 2:42:59 PM

Subject: Farmers

Attachments: [Sec. Vilsack.pdf](#)

Gov. Haley has done the following:

1. Requested and received a disaster declaration granting farmers access to low-interest emergency loans and emergency conservation funds used to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disaster (please reference below).
2. Wrote and spoke with USDA Sec. Thomas Vilsack and Presidential Advisor Valerie Jarrett in an effort to expedite the crop insurance process, in an effort to complete assessments and have payments go out as soon as possible (reference attachment).

What the Farm Bureau has asked for is direct cash payments from the federal government to farmers who are under-insured, something that no other industry in the state is asking for or will be receiving, and the governor does not believe we should treat farmers differently than any other business owners in South Carolina.

October 28, 2015

For immediate release

Contact: Chaney Adams, 803-528-7217

ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov

29 Counties Declared Primary Natural Disaster Areas By U.S. Department of Agriculture

Haley Announces Relief Available To Farmers Impacted By Flooding

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley today announced that United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack has issued a disaster designation for counties in South Carolina that suffered damage and losses due to heavy rains and flooding. The governor requested the disaster designation in an October 19 letter.

A secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met.

This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties, which include both primary and contiguous 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, administered by the South Carolina State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, can provide affected farmers with further information.

The following 29 counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas after USDA determined sufficient production losses had occurred:

Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Chester, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, Sumter and Williamsburg

The following counties have been named as contiguous disaster counties:

Abbeville, Anderson, Beaufort, Charleston, Chesterfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, McCormick, Marlboro, Spartanburg, Union, York

Katherine F. Veldran

Director of Legislative Affairs | Office of Governor Nikki Haley

O: 803-734-5124 | C: 803-767-7583

KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov