



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

December 20, 2022

THE HONORABLE JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor
State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2022, requesting a primary county disaster designation for areas of Louisiana due to extreme weather conditions including abnormal drought and excessive rainfall that occurred during the 2022 Crop Year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is aware that many farmers in Louisiana, as well as other parts of the country, are suffering from the effects of weather-related disasters. USDA will work expeditiously in the continued use of its available resources to provide relief to America's producers who have been affected by severe weather conditions.

On April 8, April 18, and May 2, 2022, in accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I designated 60 Louisiana counties as natural disaster areas due to a recent drought that began earlier in the crop year. Additionally, four parishes were determined to be contiguous disaster areas in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

On November 10, 2022, the Louisiana State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA, requested a primary county disaster designation for 11 Louisiana parishes due to losses caused by excessive rains that occurred from June 1 through November 2, 2022.

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 11 parishes 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.

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A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary parishes and those areas contiguous to such primary parishes 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.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Louisiana and Contiguous States

Primary Parishes:

Louisiana	(11)		
Ascension	Cameron	Madison	Vermilion
Avoyelles	Franklin	St. James	West Baton Rouge
Calcasieu	Iberville	Tensas	

Contiguous Parishes:

Louisiana	(23)		
Acadia	East Feliciana	Pointe Coupee	
Assumption	Evangeline	Rapides	
Beauregard	Iberia	Richland	
Caldwell	Jefferson Davis	St. John the Baptist	
Catahoula	Lafayette	St. Landry	
Concordia	Lafourche	St. Martin	
East Baton Rouge	LaSalle	West Feliciana	
East Carroll	Livingston		

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Mississippi	(4)		
Adams	Claiborne	Jefferson	Warren
Texas	(3)		
Jefferson	Newton	Orange	