



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

August 28, 2020

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor
State of New Jersey
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

On July 20, 2020, the New Jersey State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for five New Jersey counties due to losses caused by freeze and frost that occurred from April 6 through May 15, 2020.

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 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 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 New Jersey and Contiguous States

Primary Counties:

New Jersey	(5)			
Gloucester	Morris	Salem	Sussex	Warren

Contiguous Counties:

New Jersey	(8)			
Atlantic	Cumberland	Hunterdon	Somerset	
Camden	Essex	Passaic	Union	

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those states, counties, and numbers are:

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Delaware	(2)	
Kent	New Castle	

New York	(1)	
Orange		

Pennsylvania	(6)	
Bucks	Monroe	Philadelphia
Delaware	Northampton	Pike