



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 16 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 2011, requesting a disaster designation for all qualifying Maryland counties due to the combined effects of multiple disasters that occurred in 2011.

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and has determined that there were sufficient production losses in 16 counties to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 16 Maryland counties as primary natural disaster areas because of damage and losses caused by the combined effects of drought, excessive heat, and damage resulting from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, which occurred during the period of April 1 through October 31, 2011. Those counties are:

Anne Arundel	Dorchester	Montgomery	Talbot
Calvert	Frederick	Queen Anne's	Washington
Caroline	Howard	St. Mary's	Wicomico
Cecil	Kent	Somerset	Worcester

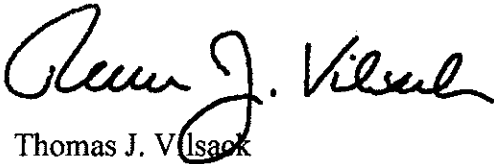
In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, the Maryland counties of Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Harford, Prince George's, and the independent city of Baltimore are named as contiguous disaster areas.

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A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

House of Representatives

Contiguous Counties

State	Congressional District	County	Part	Representative
Delaware	At-Large	Kent		John C. Carney, Jr.
	At-Large	New Castle		John C. Carney, Jr.
	At-Large	Sussex		John C. Carney, Jr.
Maryland	1 Baltimore		(part)	Andy Harris
	1 Harford		(part)	Andy Harris
	2 Baltimore		(part)	C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
	2 Baltimore (city)		(part)	C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
	2 Harford		(part)	C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
	3 Baltimore		(part)	John P. Sarbanes
	3 Baltimore (city)		(part)	John P. Sarbanes
	4 Prince George's		(part)	Donna F. Edwards
	5 Charles			Steny H. Hoyer
	5 Prince George's		(part)	Steny H. Hoyer
	6 Allegany			Roscoe G. Bartlett
	6 Baltimore		(part)	Roscoe G. Bartlett
	6 Carroll			Roscoe G. Bartlett
	6 Harford		(part)	Roscoe G. Bartlett
7 Baltimore		(part)	Elijah E. Cummings	
7 Baltimore (city)		(part)	Elijah E. Cummings	
Pennsylvania	6 Chester		(part)	Jim Gerlach
	7 Chester		(part)	Patrick Meehan
	9 Franklin			Bill Shuster
	9 Fulton			Bill Shuster
	16 Chester		(part)	Joseph R. Pitts
	16 Lancaster			Joseph R. Pitts
	19 Adams			Todd Russell Platts
Virginia	2 Accomack			E. Scott Rigell
	8 Arlington			James P. Moran
	8 Fairfax		(part)	James P. Moran
	10 Fairfax		(part)	Frank R. Wolf
	10 Loudoun			Frank R. Wolf
	11 Fairfax		(part)	Gerald E. Connolly
West Virginia	2 Berkeley			Shelley Moore Capito
	2 Jefferson			Shelley Moore Capito
	2 Morgan			Shelley Moore Capito