



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

July 15, 2015

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor
State of Idaho
Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Governor Otter:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating five Idaho counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. The primary counties included under this designation are:

Benewah	Clearwater	Latah
Bonner	Kootenai	

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of: (1) D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks; or (2) D3 (Drought-Extreme) or D4 (Drought-Exceptional).

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, five counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Boundary	Idaho	Lewis	Nez Perce	Shoshone
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Other counties in Idaho may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

Also, 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:

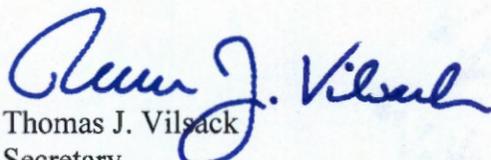
Montana	(4)		
Lincoln	Mineral	Missoula	Sanders
Washington	(3)		
Pend Oreille	Spokane	Whitman	

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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 the Farm Service Agency (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