

**FEDERAL DISASTER  
DESIGNATION**



RECEIVED NOV 15 2010

*Matthew J. Lohr*  
Commissioner

## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Phone: 804/786-3501 • fax: 804/371-2945 • Hearing Impaired: 800/828-1120

[www.vdacs.virginia.gov](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov)

November 10, 2010

Mr. Michael W. Johnson  
County Administrator  
Southampton County  
P.O. Box 400  
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am pleased to inform you that on November 4, 2010, United States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack approved the Governor's request that your locality be designated a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by drought and excessive heat that occurred during the 2010 crop year. A copy of the Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination is enclosed.

Secretary Vilsack has advised Governor McDonnell that the secretarial designation makes farm operators in both the primary and contiguous counties and independent cities eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the United States Department of Agriculture, provided eligibility requirements are met. Your local FSA office can provide affected farmers with information concerning the loan application process.

If you need additional information regarding your designation, please contact your local FSA office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew J. Lohr".

Matt Lohr  
Commissioner

Enclosure

c: The Honorable Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
The Honorable Marla Graff Decker, Secretary of Public Safety  
Melissa Luchau, Governor's Policy Office  
Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator, Department of Emergency Management



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 4 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

Thank you for your letters of September 3, September 10, and October 21, 2010, requesting a disaster designation for 59 Virginia counties and one independent city, due to losses caused by drought and related disasters that has occurred in 2010.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports, along with additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 59 Virginia counties and the independent city of Suffolk as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought and excessive heat that occurred from April 1, 2010, and continuing. Those 59 counties are:

Accomack	Clarke	Halifax	Montgomery	Rappahannock
Albemarle	Culpeper	Hanover	Nelson	Richmond
Amelia	Cumberland	Isle Of Wight	Northampton	Rockbridge
Amherst	Dinwiddie	James City	Northumberland	Shenandoah
Appomattox	Essex	King And Queen	Nottoway	Southampton
Bedford	Fauquier	King George	Orange	Spotsylvania
Brunswick	Fluvanna	King William	Page	Stafford
Buckingham	Franklin	Lancaster	Patrick	Surry
Campbell	Frederick	Louisa	Pittsylvania	Warren
Caroline	Goochland	Lunenburg	Powhatan	Westmoreland
Carroll	Greene	Mecklenburg	Prince Edward	York
Charlotte	Greensville	Middlesex	Pulaski	

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
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In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties and independent cities. Those counties and independent cities are as follows:

Counties:

Alleghany	Charles City	Gloucester	Madison	Roanoke
Augusta	Chesterfield	Grayson	Mathews	Rockingham
Bath	Craig	Henrico	New Kent	Sussex
Bland	Floyd	Henry	Prince George	Wythe
Botetourt	Giles	Loudoun	Prince William	

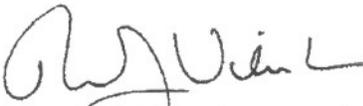
Independent cities:

Bedford	Danville	Galax	Newport News	Radford
Buena Vista	Emporia	Hampton	Petersburg	Williamsburg
Charlottesville	Franklin	Lexington	Poquoson	Winchester
Chesapeake	Fredericksburg	Lynchburg	Portsmouth	

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the 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 eight 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 2010 crop losses will be accepted in 2011, when the 2010 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

For Immediate Release

Contact

November 10, 2010

Stacey Johnson

Press Secretary  
(804) 786-2211

## **Governor McDonnell Announces Federal Disaster Designations for 60 Localities – Droughts and Excessive Heat Caused Severe Reductions in Farm Production –**

### **2010 Drought Covered More Than Two-Thirds of the Commonwealth; Had Negative Impact on Agricultural Crops and Livestock**

**RICHMOND** – Governor Bob McDonnell today announced that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated fifty-nine Virginia counties and the city of Suffolk primary natural disaster areas because of reductions in farm production caused by drought and excessive heat that occurred in 2010. These disaster designations make farmers eligible for low-interest loans and any supplemental relief that might be provided by Congress in the future.

Farmers in the independent city of Suffolk, as well as in the following counties, have received primary natural disaster designation and may also be eligible for federal assistance:

Accomack	Clarke	Halifax	Montgomery	Rappahannock
Albemarle	Culpeper	Hanover	Nelson	Richmond
Amelia	Cumberland	Isle of Wight	Northampton	Rockbridge
Amherst	Dinwiddie	James City	Northumberland	Shenandoah
Appomattox	Essex	King and Queen	Nottoway	Southampton
Bedford	Fauquier	King George	Orange	Spotsylvania
Brunswick	Fluvanna	King William	Page	Stafford
Buckingham	Franklin	Lancaster	Patrick	Surry
Campbell	Frederick	Louisa	Pittsylvania	Warren
Caroline	Goochland	Lunenburg	Powhatan	Westmoreland
Carroll	Green	Mecklenburg	Prince Edward	York
Charlotte	Greensville	Middlesex	Pulaski	

Commenting on the designations, Governor McDonnell noted, "Excessive heat and drought reduced crop yields in many localities causing farmers hardship and impacting their operations. With approval by the USDA, they are now eligible to be considered for assistance by the Federal Government."

An additional 24 counties and 19 independent cities received designations as contiguous disaster areas because of their location next to a primary disaster area. Those include the counties of Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Charles City, Chesterfield, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Gloucester, Grayson, Henrico, Henry, Loudoun, Madison, Mathews, New Kent, Prince George, Prince William, Roanoke, Rockingham, Sussex and Wythe and the independent cities of Bedford, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Danville, Emporia, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Galax, Hampton, Lexington, Lynchburg, Newport News, Petersburg, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Radford, Williamsburg and Winchester.

Disaster declarations make farm operators in both primary and contiguous areas eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided they meet certain eligibility requirements. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of a disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each application on its own merits by taking into account the extent of the losses, security available and repayment ability. Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with additional information.

Requests for primary disaster designations are currently pending for these seven counties: Botetourt, Charles City, Craig, Gloucester, Henrico, Mathews and New Kent. These counties already have received a contiguous designation but are seeking a primary declaration in case Congress appropriates direct aid.

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