



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

OCT 31 2019

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor  
State of Michigan  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On September 17, 2019, the Michigan State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for 62 Michigan counties due to losses caused by excessive rain, flooding, flash flooding, and abnormally cold temperatures that occurred from March 1, 2019, and continuing.

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 43 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. At this time, USDA is unable to make a complete and accurate determination of production losses for Arenac, Barry, Bay, Branch, Clare, Gladwin, Ionia, Lake, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Wexford Counties and; therefore, a decision to designate those counties as primary disaster areas will be deferred.

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 Michigan and Contiguous States

### Primary Counties:

<b>Michigan</b>	<b>(43)</b>			
Alger	Dickinson	Iron	Mason	Roscommon
Antrim	Eaton	Kalkaska	Menominee	St. Clair
Benzie	Emmet	Lapeer	Monroe	St. Joseph
Berrien	Genesee	Leelanau	Muskegon	Sanilac
Cass	Grand Traverse	Lenawee	Oakland	Schoolcraft
Charlevoix	Gratiot	Livingston	Oceana	Shiawassee
Cheboygan	Hillsdale	Macomb	Otsego	Washtenaw
Clinton	Huron	Manistee	Presque Isle	Wayne
Delta	Ingham	Marquette		

### Contiguous Counties:

<b>Michigan</b>	<b>(31)</b>			
Alpena	Gogebic	Luce	Montmorency	Ottawa
Baraga	Houghton	Mackinac	Newaygo	Saginaw
Barry	Ionia	Midland	Ogemaw	Tuscola
Branch	Isabella	Missaukee	Ontonagon	Van Buren
Calhoun	Jackson	Montcalm	Oscoda	Wexford
Clare	Kalamazoo			
Crawford	Kent			
Gladwin	Lake			

### Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

<b>Indiana</b>	<b>(5)</b>			
Elkhart	LaGrange	LaPorte	St. Joseph	Steuben
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>(3)</b>			
Fulton	Lucas	Williams		
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>(5)</b>			
Door	Florence	Forest	Marinette	Vilas