



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

July 31, 2023

THE HONORABLE MAURA HEALEY
Governor
State of Massachusetts
State House
Room 360
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

On July 20, 2023, the Massachusetts State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for seven Massachusetts counties due to losses caused by excessive rain and flooding that occurred during July 9 through July 16, 2023.

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 seven Massachusetts 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 FSA emergency loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. 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

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS AND CONTIGUOUS STATES

Primary Counties:

Massachusetts	(7)			
Berkshire	Franklin	Hampshire	Worcester	
Bristol	Hampden	Norfolk		

Contiguous Counties:

Massachusetts	(4)			
Dukes	Middlesex	Plymouth	Suffolk	

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Connecticut	(4)			
Hartford	Litchfield	Tolland	Windham	

New Hampshire	(2)			
Cheshire	Hillsborough			

New York	(3)			
Columbia	Dutchess	Rensselaer		

Rhode Island	(3)			
Bristol	Newport	Providence		

Vermont	(2)			
Bennington	Windham			