



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

OCT 28 2015

The Honorable John Hickenlooper  
Governor  
State of Colorado  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

On June 29, 2015, the Colorado State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for Delta County in Colorado, due to damages and losses caused by severe freezes that occurred from April 2 through April 19, 2015.

At that time, USDA was unable to make a complete and accurate determination of production losses for the current crop year. On October 16, 2015, the Colorado State Office notified the National Office that the loss assessment report was complete.

USDA reviewed the loss assessment report and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Delta County in Colorado as a primary natural disaster area.

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. Those counties are:

Gunnison

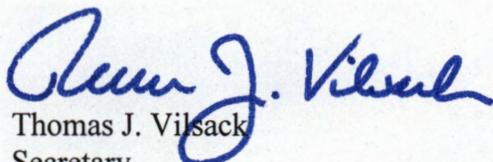
Mesa

Montrose

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,

  
Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary