



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Governor  
State of Arizona  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

DEC - 3 2009

Dear Governor Brewer:

Thank you for your letter of October 30, 2009, requesting a disaster designation for the State of Arizona due to losses caused by drought that occurred in 2009.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports for all 15 Arizona counties, 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 in 13 Arizona counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all Arizona counties, except La Paz and Yuma Counties, as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought that occurred during the period of January 1, through December 31, 2009.

We were unable to confirm that sufficient production losses occurred in La Paz and Yuma Counties.

There were no qualifying production losses due to drought in those counties. Therefore, I am unable to approve your request for the designation of La Paz and Yuma Counties, Arizona, as primary natural disaster areas.

However, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, both counties will be named as contiguous disaster counties.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program, which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a white background.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary