

USDA Designates 213 Counties in Texas as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2011 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 213 counties in Texas as primary natural disaster areas after one of the worst droughts in more than a century. The state sustained excessive heat, high winds and wildfires that burned hundreds of thousands of acres.

"Many producers have lost their crops due to the devastation caused by the drought and wildfires," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I want these farmers and ranchers to know that we will support them through the recovery process and help them once again become productive suppliers of food, fiber and fuel that keep America prospering. This designation will help provide that support."

The drought, wildfires and other natural disasters - which began Jan. 1, 2011, and continues - caused 30 percent or more loss of forage crops, pasture, corn, oats and wheat in the following counties:

Anderson	Cochran	Galveston	Jim Hogg	Midland	Scurry
Andrews	Coke	Garza	Jim Wells	Mills	Shackelford
Angelina	Coleman	Gillespie	Johnson	Mitchell	Shelby
Aransas	Collin	Glasscock	Jones	Montgomery	Sherman
Archer	Collingsworth	Goliad	Karnes	Moore	Smith
Armstrong	Colorado	Gonzales	Kendall	Morris	Somervell
Atascosa	Comal	Gray	Kenedy	Motley	Starr
Austin	Comanche	Gregg	Kent	Nacogdoches	Stephens
Bailey	Concho	Grimes	Kerr	Newton	Sterling
Bandera	Cooke	Guadalupe	Kimble	Nolan	Stonewall
Bastrop	Coryell	Hale	King	Ochiltree	Sutton
Baylor	Cottle	Hall	Kleburg	Oldham	Swisher
Bee	Crockett	Hamilton	Knox	Orange	Taylor
Bell	Crosby	Hansford	La Salle	Palo Pinto	Terrell
Blanco	Culberson	Hardeman	Lamar	Panola	Throckmorton
Bosque	Dallam	Hardin	Lamb	Parker	Titus
Bowie	De Witt	Harris	Lampasas	Parmer	Tom Green
Brazoria	Deaf Smith	Harrison	Lavaca	Pecos	Travis
Brazos	Delta	Hartley	Lee	Polk	Trinity
Brewster	Denton	Haskell	Leon	Potter	Tyler
Briscoe	Dickens	Hays	Liberty	Presidio	Upshur
Brooks	Donley	Hemphill	Limestone	Rains	Upton
Brown	Duval	Hidalgo	Lipscomb	Randall	Val Verde
Burleson	Eastland	Hockley	Live Oak	Reagan	Victoria
Burnet	Edwards	Hood	Loving	Reeves	Walker
Caldwell	El Paso	Hopkins	Lubbock	Refugio	Waller
Calhoun	Ellis	Houston	Lynn	Roberts	Washington
Callahan	Erath	Howard	Madison	Robertson	Webb
Cameron	Fayette	Hudspeth	Marion	Rusk	Wheeler
Camp	Fisher	Hutchinson	Martin	Sabine	Wichita
Cass	Floyd	Irion	McCulloch	San Augustine	Wilbarger
Castro	Foard	Jack	McLennan	San Jacinto	Willacy
Chambers	Fort Bend	Jackson	McMullen	San Patricio	Wood
Cherokee	Franklin	Jasper	Medina	San Saba	Young
Childress	Freestone	Jeff Davis	Menard	Schleicher	Zapata
Clay	Frio	Jefferson			

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Texas also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous:

Bexar	Ector	Hunt	Milam	Runnels	Williamson
Borden	Falls	Kaufman	Montague	Tarrant	Wilson
Carson	Fannin	Kinney	Navarro	Terry	Winkler
Crane	Gaines	Llano	Nueces	Uvalde	Wise
Dallas	Grayson	Mason	Real	Van Zandt	Yoakum
Dawson	Henderson	Matagorda	Red River	Ward	Zavala
Dimmit	Hill	Maverick	Rockwall	Wharton	

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous:

Arkansas

Little	River	Miller
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Louisiana

Beauregard	Calcasieu	De Soto	Vernon
Caddo	Cameron	Sabine	

New Mexico

Curry	Eddy	Otero	Roosevelt
Dona Ana	Lea	Quay	Union

Oklahoma

Beaver	Choctaw	Ellis	Jefferson	Roger Mills
Beckham	Cimarron	Harmon	Love	Texas
Bryan	Cotton	Jackson	McCurtain	Tillman

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas June 24, 2011, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.