USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This is in response to your letters of January 22, 2007, January 24, 2007, and January 26, 2007; requesting disaster designations for 18 California counties due to extremely low temperatures and freezing conditions that occurred during the period January 6, 2007, through January 19, 2007. Those counties are:

El Dorado	Imperial	Merced	Sacramento	Santa Barbara	Tulare
Fresno	Kern	Monterey	San Bernardino	Stanislaus	Yolo
Glenn	Madera	Riverside	San Luis Obispo	Sutter	Yuba

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports, 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 to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all 18 counties named above as primary natural disaster areas.

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:

Alameda	Colusa	Los Angeles	Nevada	San Diego	Solano
Alpine	Contra Costa	Mariposa	Orange	San Joaquin	Tehama
Amador	Inyo	Mendocino	Placer	Santa Clara	Tuolumne
Butte	Kings	Mono	Plumas	Santa Cruz	Ventura
Calaveras	Lake	Napa	San Benito	Sierra	

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. 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,

Mike Johanns
Secretary