



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

July 16, 2014

The Honorable Mark Dayton  
Governor  
State of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

On June 26, 2014, the Minnesota State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for Rock County, Minnesota, due to damage and losses caused by heavy precipitation, flooding, and hail that occurred from June 11 through June 18, 2014.

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 Rock County, Minnesota, as a primary natural disaster area.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Murray, Nobles, and Pipestone, are named as contiguous disaster counties.

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those States, counties, and numbers are:

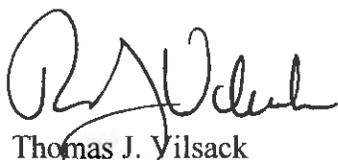
**Contiguous counties in Adjacent States**

<b>Iowa</b>	<b>(1)</b>
Lyon	
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Minnehaha	Moody

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 the 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