The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Governor  
State of North Dakota  
Bismarck, North Dakota  58505

Dear Governor Burgum:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating four North Dakota counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. The primary counties included under this designation are:

Dickey  
Kidder  
McHenry  
Sheridan

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of: 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 14 counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Bottineau  
Burleigh  
Emmons  
LaMoure  
Logan  
McIntosh  
McLean  
Pierce  
Ransom  
Renville  
Sargent  
Stutsman  
Ward  
Wells

Other counties in North Dakota may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Brown and McPherson Counties, in the adjacent State of South Dakota are named as contiguous disaster areas.
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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 Farm Service Agency (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,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary