



United States Department of Agriculture

JUL 20 2011

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor
State of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

This is in response to the letter of June 21, 2011, signed by Dr. John Bush, Tribal Vice-Chairman, on behalf of Terry Rambler, Chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, requesting a disaster designation for the San Carlos Apache Reservation because of damage and losses caused by ongoing drought and related disasters.

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports for the counties in which the reservation is located and has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating the San Carlos Apache Reservation as a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by drought, high winds, excessive heat, and related wildfires that occurred from January 1, 2011, and continuing.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, and Pinal Counties, Arizona, are named as contiguous disaster counties.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous disaster areas eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability. SURE Program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

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 circular stamp.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary