



resources they need to produce the fresh, locally grown food that our citizens rely on year-round.”

For more information, contact the local USDA office at (866) 871-4095 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 24 2009

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell  
Governor  
State of Connecticut  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

Thank you for your letter of October 29, 2009, requesting a disaster designation for six Connecticut counties, due to losses caused by abnormally high rainfall, high winds, hail, and flooding that occurred from May 12, 2009, and continuing. Those counties are:

Fairfield  
Hartford

Litchfield  
New Haven

New London  
Windham

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Loss Assessment Report, 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 six Connecticut counties named above, as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Middlesex and Tolland Counties, Connecticut, are named as contiguous disaster counties.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program, which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. 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,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary