



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

March 17, 2023

THE HONORABLE JARED POLIS
Governor
State of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Polis:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 23 Colorado counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

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, additional areas of your state and adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "V".

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR COLORADO AND CONTIGUOUS STATES

Primary Counties

Colorado	(23)	
Adams	Kiowa	Phillips
Arapahoe	Kit Carson	Prowers
Baca	Las Animas	Pueblo
Bent	Lincoln	Sedgwick
Cheyenne	Logan	Washington
Crowley	Morgan	Weld
Elbert	Otero	Yuma
El Paso		
Fremont		

Contiguous Counties:

Colorado	(13)			
Boulder	Costilla	Douglas	Larimer	Saguache
Broomfield	Custer	Huerfano	Park	Teller
Chaffee	Denver	Jefferson		

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Kansas	(7)		
Cheyenne	Hamilton	Sherman	Wallace
Greeley	Morton	Stanton	
Nebraska	(6)		
Chase	Deuel	Kimball	
Cheyenne	Dundy	Perkins	
New Mexico	(2)		
Colfax	Union		
Oklahoma	(1)		
	Cimarron		
Wyoming	(1)		
	Laramie		