



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2011

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Since the middle of December 2010 and continuing, parts of Georgia's agricultural community has experienced ongoing drought. As a result, Georgia farmers have suffered extensive losses to numerous crops.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Boards have prepared Loss Adjustment Reports which have been reviewed by USDA State Emergency Board (SEB). The SEB has concurred with the loss information as reported on the Loss Assessment Reports and have recommended a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation be requested.

I respectfully ask for your consideration in designating the following Georgia Counties as a Secretarial Disaster Designation:

Appling	Bryan	Effingham	Telfair
Atkinson	Chatham	Irwin	Thomas
Bacon	Coffee	Jeff Davis	Wayne
Ben Hill	Colquitt	Lanier	Wheeler
Brantley	Cook	Lowndes	
Brooks	Dodge	Pierce	

With the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation, Georgia farmers located in the above Counties will be eligible to apply for assistance such as emergency loans and other benefits provided by The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

If my office can provide more information please do not hesitate to contact Steven Meeks at (912) 207-0813 with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Nathan Deal