

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER AID FOR 59 COUNTIES
Major Crops Lost to Drought Include Corn, Soybeans and Hay

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to declare 59 of North Carolina's 100 counties disaster areas because of drought-related crop losses. Agriculture Department Loss Assessment Reports show excessive agricultural losses for at least one major crop, and significant losses on corn, soybeans, hay, and pasture and other forage crops. Easley sent a letter to federal Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer today.

"The drought conditions that began in spring of 2007 have devastated many crops, and it is good that rain in the late summer and early fall has eased the drought in parts of the state," Easley said. "But many of our farmers need help to stay in business, and this disaster assistance will provide financial aid to an industry that is a significant part of the North Carolina economy."

If the disaster declaration is approved by Agriculture Department, it would authorize the Farm Service Agency to make low interest emergency credit loans available to eligible producers. Based on unofficial estimates of crop losses gathered by the State Emergency Board of the N.C. Food and Agriculture Council, Easley is requesting the declaration for the following 59 counties:

Alleghany	Clay	Henderson	Onslow	Stanly
Ashe	Cleveland	Hyde	Orange	Surry
Avery	Columbus	Jackson	Pender	Swain
Beaufort	Craven	Jones	Perquimans	Transylvania
Brunswick	Davidson	Lenoir	Person	Tyrrell
Buncombe	Davie	Macon	Pitt	Washington
Burke	Duplin	Madison	Polk	Watauga
Cabarrus	Durham	Martin	Robeson	Wayne
Caldwell	Gates	McDowell	Rockingham	Wilkes
Caswell	Graham	Mecklenburg	Rutherford	Wilson
Cherokee	Greene	Nash	Sampson	Yadkin
Chowan	Haywood	New Hanover	Scotland	

Under U.S. Department of Agriculture rules, if a county is declared a disaster area, then contiguous counties are also eligible for disaster aid.

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