



Office of the Under Secretary
for Farm Production and Conservation
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 8, 2026

THE HONORABLE ABIGAIL SPANBERGER
Governor
State of Virginia
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 22318

Dear Governor Spanberger:

Per 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 15 Virginia counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

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 eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Per 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.

Other counties in Virginia may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loan assistance, provided eligibility requirements are met. 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact FPAC.BC.Congressional@usda.gov, reference disaster designation number 2026N00002629.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BSA", is positioned above the printed name of the Deputy Under Secretary.

Brooke S. Appleton
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR VIRGINIA AND CONTIGUOUS STATES

Primary Counties:

Virginia	(15)	
Buchanan	Isle of Wight	Scott
Charles City	James City	Surry
Chesterfield	Lee	Wise
Dickenson	New Kent	York
Henrico	Prince George	Suffolk

Contiguous Counties and Areas:

Virginia	(25)			
Amelia	King and Queen	Sussex	Franklin	Petersburg
Dinwiddie	King William	Tazewell	Hampton	Poquoson
Gloucester	Powhatan	Washington	Hopewell	Portsmouth
Goochland	Russell	Chesapeake	Newport News	Richmond
Hanover	Southampton	Colonial Heights	Norton	Williamsburg

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States :

Kentucky	(4)		
Bell	Harlan	Letcher	Pike
North Carolina	(2)		
Camden	Gates		
Tennessee	(4)		
Claiborne	Hancock	Hawkins	Sullivan
West Virginia	(2)		
McDowell	Mingo		