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Press Release



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Governor Hassan Announces Additional New Hampshire Counties Receive Secretarial Drought Disaster Designation from U.S. Department of Agriculture

CONCORD – Continuing efforts to support New Hampshire farmers and other local businesses in the agriculture industry responding to the crop losses caused by recent severe drought conditions, Governor Maggie Hassan announced today that U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack granted a Secretarial Drought Disaster Designation for additional New Hampshire counties.

Cheshire and Strafford counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas and Carroll County was added to New Hampshire's contiguous disaster counties. Hillsborough, Merrimack and Rockingham counties were previously designated as primary natural disaster areas, and Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Strafford and Sullivan counties had also already been designated as contiguous disaster counties. Farm operators in each of these nine counties are eligible to apply for federal assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

"Severe drought conditions continue to have a negative impact on New Hampshire's farmers, and I thank Secretary Vilsack and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their continued efforts to help us respond to this emergency situation," Governor Hassan said. "All New Hampshire farmers in these nine counties are eligible to apply for emergency programs, including dairy farmers who have been particularly hard hit in recent years and whose situation has been further compounded by the drought. New Hampshire's farmers and other local businesses in our agriculture industry are critical to our economy and our way of life, and we must continue working to support them as they deal with severe drought conditions. For our dairy farmers in particular, we know that the relief available with this federal designation may not be enough and that we must continue working together to help this important industry survive in New Hampshire."

Today's announcement follows [a Secretarial Drought Disaster Designation that was granted last week](#), as well as [Governor Hassan's original request for a disaster declaration in early August](#). In addition, New Hampshire has received a [natural disaster designation for farmers of perennial fruit crops in all 10 counties](#) responding to crop losses due to extreme cold in February and again in early April.

Farmers interested in applying for assistance should contact their local FSA office.

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