



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

September 12, 2011

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 200A
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On Thursday, September 8, 2011, Iowa State Emergency Board members met via conference call to review Damage Assessment Reports (DARs) submitted by Iowa counties to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In accordance with the State Emergency Board's recommendation, I respectfully request that you, under your authorities, provide disaster designation for the following twenty-seven (27) Iowa counties:

Adams, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Henry, Jefferson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Polk, Tama, Taylor, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Wayne and Woodbury.

Iowa producers in these counties are sustaining damage due to severe weather events this summer. Wind and hail damage as well as drought conditions have contributed to the production losses in the twenty-seven counties. In addition, producers have experiencing damage to farm buildings, grain storage structures, livestock buildings, and equipment due to the severe wind and hail events on July 11 and 18.

The following severe weather summary from the National Weather Service highlights the unique weather event that impacted crops within the severe weather period.

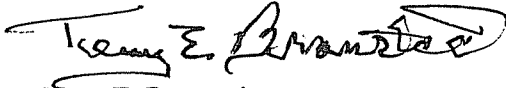
"On the morning of July 11, 2011, a powerful long-lasting straight-line windstorm, known as a derecho, developed over central Iowa and carved a path of extensive damage across east central Iowa. The storm first took shape as a cluster of low end severe storms over southern Nebraska during the late afternoon of July 10. The system continued northeastward and entered western Iowa at 1:00am, still only as a marginal line of severe storms. As the system passed through the northern Des Moines metro area at 3:30am, it interacted with an outflow boundary from the storms to the north and rapidly intensified as it accelerated eastward. Over the next hour and a half the storm plowed eastward through Story, Marshall, and Tama Counties, blasting the area with winds of up to 105 mph, the equivalent of an EF1 tornado. The storm continued to track eastward, plowing through eastern Iowa and the southern Great Lakes region before dissipating in West Virginia in the mid-afternoon. Thousands of trees were downed in eastern Iowa alone and numerous structures were damaged or destroyed."

I want to express my gratitude to FSA State Executive Director John Whitaker and his staff for their assistance with this request. They have worked to assure timely DARs and to maximize USDA assistance for our farmers. I appreciate their expertise and efforts.

The State FSA will forward, under separate cover, the DARs and analysis to your office for review.

Thank you for considering this request for Secretarial Disaster Designation during these trying times for our farmers. If additional information is required, please contact Susan Dixon, Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division of the Department of Public Defense at 515-725-3257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Branstad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

CC: Mr. John Whitaker, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency

Mr. Derek Hill, Administrator, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Secretary Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship