FEB - 2 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
State of Florida
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

Thank you for your letter of January 12, 2011, requesting a disaster designation for Volusia County, Florida, due to losses caused frosts and freezes that occurred from December 7 through December 30, 2010.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports along with the additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Volusia County, Florida, as a primary natural disaster area.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Putnam, and Seminole Counties, Florida, are named as contiguous disaster counties.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability. SURE Program applications for 2010 crop losses will be accepted in 2011, when the 2010 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor  
State of Florida  
Tallahassee, Florida  
32399-0001