



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

June 8, 2026

THE HONORABLE MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor
State of New Jersey
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Sherrill:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2026, requesting a primary county disaster designation for several counties in New Jersey, due to damage and losses caused by a severe freeze event that occurred on April 19, 2026, through April 22, 2026.

The United States Department of Agriculture reviewed the loss assessment reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating 17 counties as primary natural disaster areas. In accordance with section 321(a) of the *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act*, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties.

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 2026N00000317.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BSA", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Brooke S. Appleton
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR NEW JERSEY AND CONTIGUOUS STATES

Primary Counties:

New Jersey	(17)			
Atlantic	Cape May	Mercer	Morris	Somerset
Bergen	Cumberland	Middlesex	Ocean	Sussex
Burlington	Gloucester	Monmouth	Salem	Warren
Camden	Hunterdon			

Contiguous Counties:

New Jersey	(4)		
Essex	Hudson	Passaic	Union

Contiguous Areas in Adjacent States:

Delaware	(2)		
Kent	New Castle		
New York	(7)		
Bronx	Orange	Richmond	Westchester
New York	Queens	Rockland	
Pennsylvania	(6)		
Bucks	Monroe	Philadelphia	
Delaware	Northampton	Pike	