Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

Washington, D.C. 20250

March 4, 2026

THE HONORABLE RON DESANTIS
Governor
State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On January 30, 2026, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Commissioner Wilton Simpson, requested a primary county disaster designation for Florida counties due to losses caused by a winter storm that occurred during the 2026 Crop Year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reviewed the loss assessment reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating 26 Florida counties as primary natural disaster areas, in five separate disaster designations. In accordance with 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 these disasters.

At this time, USDA is unable to make a complete and accurate determination of production losses in Baker, DeSoto, Hamilton, Hardee, Holmes, Lafayette. Manatee, Marion. Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Suwannee, Union, and Walton counties; therefore, a decision to designate those counties as primary natural disaster areas will be deferred. As soon as harvest has concluded and final losses are assessed, USDA will make a determination on the request for a primary county natural disaster designation for those counties.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for 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.

Sincerely,

Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary

Enclosure: Designations

Designation Number 1: Freeze and frost that occurred during January 23 through February 5, 2026:

Primary Counties:

Florida	**(12)**		
Dixie	Hendry	Leon	Martin
Gilchrist	Highlands	Levy	Okeechobee
Glades	Jefferson	Madison	Putnam

Contiguous Counties:

Florida	**(27)**	
Alachua	Flagler	Osceola
Bradford	Gadsden	Palm Beach
Broward	Hamilton	Polk
Charlotte	Hardee	St. Johns
Citrus	Indian River	St. Lucie
Clay	Lafayette	Suwannee
Collier	Lee	Taylor
Columbia	Liberty	Volusia
DeSoto	Marion	Wakulla

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

Georgia	**(4)**		
Brooks	Grady	Lowndes	Thomas

Designation Number 2: Freeze, frost, and high winds that occurred during January 23 through February 5, 2026:

Primary Counties:

Florida	**(4)**		
Alachua	Bradford	Charlotte	Collier

Contiguous Counties:

Florida	**(17)**			
Baker	DeSoto	Highlands	Marion	Putnam
Broward	Gilchrist	Lee	Miami-Dade	Sarasota
Clay	Glades	Levy	Monroe	Union
Columbia	Hendry			

Designation Number 3: Freeze, frost, ice, and high winds that occurred during January 23 through February 5, 2026:

Primary Counties:

Florida	**(3)**		
Broward	Palm Beach	Sumter	

Contiguous Counties:

Florida	**(12)**		
Citrus	Hendry	Marion	Okeechobee
Collier	Hernando	Martin	Pasco
Glades	Lake	Miami-Dade	Polk

Designation Number 4: Freeze that occurred during January 23 through February 5, 2026:

Primary County:

Florida	**(1)**
Taylor	

Contiguous Counties:

Florida	**(4)**		
Dixie	Jefferson	Lafayette	Madison

Designation Number 5: Freeze, frost, and ice that occurred during January 23 through February 5, 2026:

Primary Counties:

Florida	**(6)**	
Citrus	Indian River	Pasco
Hernando	Jackson	St. Lucie

Contiguous Counties:

Florida	**(16)**		
Bay	Hillsborough	Marion	Pinellas
Brevard	Holmes	Martin	Polk
Calhoun	Levy	Okeechobee	Sumter
Gadsden	Liberty	Osceola	Washington

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Alabama	**(2)**
Geneva	Houston

Georgia	**(1)**
Seminole	