



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I write on behalf of Michigan farmers who are once again facing challenges due to weather. From freezing temperatures to prolonged rainfall, drought and high winds, many of our producers are finding themselves in the midst of yet another difficult growing season. As governor, I respectfully request that you expedite a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Disaster Designation for Michigan counties impacted by this severe weather, as well as make available any other possible assistance under the Federal Crop Insurance Program or other USDA programs to help Michigan's hard-working farmers recover.

This spring, Michigan experienced a significant period of freezing temperatures after many warm days. These cold temperatures negatively impacted many crops at a key time in their development, including cherries, asparagus, and other fruit and vegetable crops. The damage appears significant in some cases and areas of the state.

In addition, parts of Michigan's croplands have experienced both drought and flooding, in some cases within days of each other. We've also had several storms with high winds and damaging hail, and this past weekend, we had high winds, tornadoes, and large amounts of rain in multiple areas of the state, causing damage to barns and agriculture infrastructure, as well as to standing crops.

Thank you for considering my request for a USDA Disaster Designation and for all available assistance under the Federal Crop Insurance Program and other federal programs to be made available for all Michigan counties impacted by severe weather this year. My team has been in close contact with Farm Service Agency staff in Michigan, and we look forward to continuing to work together to make sure our Michigan farmers have access to all available assistance during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan