



MIKE DEWINE

GOVERNOR OF OHIO

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June 14, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

First, I want to thank you and the Trump administration for your thoughtful consideration of the issues facing American farmers due to extreme weather conditions. Ohio has received record rainfall amounts in recent months that have disastrously affected Ohio agriculture. As Governor of Ohio, I would like to formally request a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation for Ohio so that assistance can be made available to Ohio farmers.

Heavy rainfall in Ohio through the spring planting season has been devastating to Ohio farmers. The *Columbus Dispatch* has reported that the last 12 months have been the wettest on record since records began being kept 124 years ago. According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, it rained about 58% of the spring days in Northeast Ohio this year -- a first since the 1940s. The *Toledo Blade* reported that in Northwest Ohio, the combined rainfall for the months of March and April was 6th wettest on record since 1955.

Due to flooding, ponding, and saturated fields, Ohio farmers have been prevented from planting crops. With only 50% of Ohio's corn crop and 32% of Ohio's soybean crop planted as of June 10, 2019 (compared to 96% of corn planted by the same time in 2018), Ohio farmers face significant production loss in 2019. Ohio's deviation of planting over this period is down 57% for corn and 61% for soybeans. Many Ohio farmers have yet to plant a single seed this spring.

The harsh reality for Ohio farmers is that many acres will remain unplanted. In addition, our dairy and livestock sectors face a serious forage and feed shortage due to hay winterkill and the inability to harvest hay due to excessive rain. The inability to plant spring crops will further complicate this matter for Ohio farmers.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request for a Disaster Designation for Ohio. If I can provide additional information, please contact me at any time.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine
Governor