

Several Counties in Central New York, Southern Tier damaged by drought, excessive heat

U.S. Representative Richard Hanna (NY-24) announced today that several counties in the Central New York and Southern Tier areas have been designated "disasters" due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat that have occurred since June.

At the request of New York state, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has determined the following counties suffered sufficient production losses due to drought and related disasters that occurred from June 1, 2012 to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation:

- **Primary counties include:** Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Oneida and Otsego.

- **Contiguous counties include:** Herkimer, Oswego and Tioga.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for an assistance from the FSA provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 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.

"I'm pleased that Central New York and Southern Tier farmers will now be able to apply for assistance if they need it," Rep. Hanna said. "You can't know when a natural disaster will strike and unfortunately a drought or bad storm can wipe out an entire crop season. USDA disaster programs can help our agriculture industry recover, and I encourage impacted farmers in these counties to contact their local FSA office."

To find your FSA office, [click here](#) .

