



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

August 5, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Subject: Request for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759, I request a Secretarial Disaster Designation for all eight (8) counties within the State of Connecticut that incurred significant damage due to Tropical Storm Elsa that impacted Connecticut on July 9, 2021.

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection reports that the National Weather Service recorded wind speeds between 39 MPH and 42 MPH across the state and delivered between 1.5" to 5.0" of rainfall. Complicating the recovery, Connecticut received regular thunderstorms in the days following Tropical Storm Elsa. According to USGS and NWS reports, between the tropical storm and additional storms, July rainfall was up between 104% to 382% across the state.

According damage reports shared by the USDA Farm Service Agency Connecticut State Office, producers suffered significant damage and crop losses above the 30% disaster trigger as a result of the rain and high wind speeds from the storm.

A Secretarial designation will open the availability of low-interest USDA Farm Service Agency emergency loans for eligible producers in the approved counties.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. If your staff have any questions or require additional information or documentation, please contact Connecticut's Commissioner of Agriculture, Bryan Hurlburt at bryan.hurlburt@ct.gov or at (860) 713-2501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont
Governor