USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Under Secretary
for Farm Production and Conservation
Washington, D.C. 20250

July 23, 2026

THE HONORABLE KATHY HOCHUL
Governor
State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

Thank you for your letter of May 19, 2026, requesting a primary county disaster designation for counties in New York due to damage and losses caused by disaster events 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 32 New York 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 additional 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 cannot make a complete and accurate assessment for a primary Secretarial natural disaster designation for Albany, Chautauqua, and Sullivan counties due to frost and freeze; however, they are all named as contiguous counties in this letter and therefore are eligible for Emergency Loan assistance. A primary designation for these three counties will be deferred until required documentation can be submitted for review and final determination. If additional counties are designated as primary disaster areas in the future, your office will receive written notification from USDA.

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

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Additional programs that can support New York's specialty crop growers include:

- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which provides coverage for non-insurable crops when producers filed for coverage before the disaster.
- Emergency Conservation Program, which offers cost-share assistance for restoring farmland damaged by natural disasters.
- Tree Assistance Program, which helps orchardist replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost to natural disasters. .

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact FPAC.BC.Congressional@usda.gov, reference disaster designation number 2026N00000827.

Sincerely,

BROOKE S. APPLETON
Deputy Under Secretary

Enclosure
cc: Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR NEW YORK AND A CONTIGUOUS STATE

Designation Number 1: Freeze that occurred during April 7 through April 8, 2026:

Primary Counties:

New York	**(3)**	
Broome	Cortland	Tompkins

Contiguous Counties:

New York	**(9)**	
Cayuga	Delaware	Schuyler
Chemung	Madison	Seneca
Chenango	Onondaga	Tioga

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

Pennsylvania	**(2)**
Susquehanna	Wayne

Designation Number 2: Frost and Freeze that occurred during April 19 through April 21, 2026:

Primary Counties:

New York	**(29)**	
Broome	Niagara	Seneca
Cayuga	Onondaga	Steuben
Chemung	Ontario	Suffolk
Columbia	Orange	Tompkins
Cortland	Orleans	Ulster
Dutchess	Oswego	Washington
Fulton	Putnam	Wayne
Greene	Rockland	Westchester
Montgomery	Saratoga	Yates
Nassau	Schuyler	

Contiguous Counties:

New York	**(24)**	
Albany	Hamilton	Otsego
Allegany	Herkimer	Queens
Bronx	Jefferson	Rensselaer
Chenango	Lewis	Schenectady
Delaware	Livingston	Schoharie
Erie	Madison	Sullivan
Essex	Monroe	Tioga
Genesee	Oneida	Warren

Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:

Connecticut	**(3)**	
Fairfield	Litchfield	New London
Massachusetts	**(1)**	
Berkshire		
New Jersey	**(3)**	
Bergen	Passaic	Sussex
Pennsylvania	**(6)**	
Bradford	Potter	Tioga
Pike	Susquehanna	Wayne
Rhode Island	**(1)**	
Washington		
Vermont	**(3)**	
Addison	Bennington	Rutland

Designation Number 3: Frost and Freeze that occurred during May 11 through May 12, 2026:

Primary Counties:

New York	**(5)**			
Fulton	Montgomery	Onondaga	Otsego	St. Lawrence

Contiguous Counties:

New York	**(15)**	
Cayuga	Hamilton	Oneida
Chenango	Herkimer	Oswego
Cortland	Jefferson	Saratoga
Delaware	Lewis	Schenectady
Franklin	Madison	Schoharie

Designation Number 4: High Winds and Hail that occurred during May 13 through May 14, 2026:

Primary Counties:

New York	**(2)**
Cayuga	Oswego

Contiguous Counties:

New York	**(9)**	
Cortland	Madison	Seneca
Jefferson	Oneida	Tompkins
Lewis	Onondaga	Wayne

Designation Number 5: Excessive Rain, Flooding, and Flash Flooding that occurred during March 31 through April 1, 2026:

Primary County:

New York	**(1)**
Erie	

Contiguous Counties:

New York	**(5)**			
Cattaraugus	Chautauqua	Genesee	Niagara	Wyoming