



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

August 9, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, agriculture is the backbone of Georgia's economy and our largest industry. Given the significance of agriculture in our economy, I am writing to request an agriculture disaster declaration.

With soil moisture conditions and ground water below normal across most of the state, an agricultural drought has been declared. The Georgia USDA State Emergency Board has received and reviewed damage assessment reports submitted by County Emergency Boards, which reflect production losses as a result of drought and excessive temperatures which began March 1, 2006 and continue. Cotton, corn, forage crops, soybeans, pecans, peanuts, tobacco, and various fruits and vegetables throughout Georgia have been affected by these adverse conditions. To date, 155 of Georgia's 159 counties have submitted reports which reflect significant crop losses.

On behalf of Georgia's farmers, I respectfully request a review of these reports and designation of Georgia as an agriculture disaster area. It is important that Georgia farmers have access to low-interest emergency loans and other federal assistance as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Sonny Perdue