



United States Department  
of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency

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August 19, 2010

**TO: Boards of County Commissioners; Clackamas and Multnomah Counties**

**FROM: USDA Farm Service Agency, Clackamas/Multnomah Counties**

RECEIVED  
AUG 24 2010

**SUBJECT: Secretarial Disaster Designation Request**

This is to request the assistance of the Boards of County Commissioners for Clackamas and Multnomah Counties to begin the process to declare these counties as disaster areas. The basis for this request is crop production losses resulting from three months of low temperatures and excessive rain from April through June. Your concurrence with this request will prompt the Governor to seek a disaster declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

This declaration will make affected producers in these and contiguous counties eligible for Farm Service Agency, (FSA) low interest Emergency loans (EM) and will make an increased number of growers eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE) from FSA. Also FSA borrowers who are unable to make loan payments timely due to disaster conditions may qualify for rescheduling of payments.

This abnormally cold and excessively wet weather caused production and quality losses, unusually high production costs, delayed and prevented planting for growers of several important local crops.

- Yield reductions are common for any crop that is dependent on insects for pollination. These creatures are very sensitive to temperature and moisture, conditions that were most unfavorable this spring. Crops with known yield losses from pollination failure are; Marion berries, boysenberries red and black raspberries and meadow foam.
- Strawberries had significant quality loss from mold, rot and slug damage.
- Crops with above normal production costs include blueberries, winter wheat and grass seed that required extra fungicide applications.
- Growers of silage corn and processing vegetables; peas, sweet corn, green beans, squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and potatoes missed planting dates or were so long delayed that some fields were not planted. No doubt yields will be disappointing on these late planted crops especially if early rains complicate harvest this fall.
- A final irony to all this is a nearly complete crop failure in rhubarb. We now can answer the old chestnut about whether the rain will hurt the rhubarb.

The precise percentage of yield loss for affected crops is uncertain now but can be reasonably estimated in these ranges:

Marion berries and other cane berries;	30% to 50%
Strawberries	25% to 40%
Late planted vegetables and field corn	20% to 40%

The spring weather data as recorded at Aurora and Portland is summarized on the following tables;

**2010 WEATHER DATA  
AURORA OR**

**Source: Oregon Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service**

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Air Temperature</u>			<u>Growing Degree</u>		<u>Precipitation</u>		<u>DFN # Days</u>
	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>DFN</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>DFN</u>	<u>Total in</u>		
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	35	56	-4	0	-8	2.55	+1.77	6
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	35	65	-1	6	-8	0.38	-0.32	4
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	35	72	+5	27	+12	0.93	+0.30	5
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	36	66	+2	11	-10	0.06	-0.52	3
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	42	64	-1	11	-11	1.02	+0.46	5
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	37	69	-4	15	-13	0.58	+0.06	4
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	41	77	+4	56	+23	0.25	-0.24	1
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	40	71	-4	29	-12	2.64	+2.15	7
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	43	68	-3	37	-14	1.14	+0.65	6
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	43	74	-2	57	-5	2.56	+2.10	6
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	48	83	-1	69	-4	0.48	+0.06	3
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	42	67	-7	39	-43	0.66	+0.27	3
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	50	83	+3	108	+15	0	-0.33	0
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	47	78	-5	77	-24	0.23	-0.01	2

DFN = Departure from Normal

Summary of period from March 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>:

Air temperature departure from below normal had frequency of 10 of 14 weeks (71% of the period), averaging 3.2 degrees. Departure above normal occurred 4 weeks (29% of the period) averaging 3.5 degrees. Growing degree days had a similar pattern where departure below normal (79% of the period) averaged 13.8 days and the remaining weeks averaged 16.6 days above normal.

Total precipitation was 13.48 inches for the period, with the normal amount of 7.08 inches, 190% of normal. It rained 55 of 98 days, 56% of the period.

**2010 WEATHER DATA  
PORTLAND OR**

Source: Oregon Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

Week Ending	Air Temperature			Growing Degree		Precipitation		DFN # Days
	Low	High	DFN	Total	DFN	Total in		
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	38	54	-4	0	-13	2.03	+1.36	7
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	34	64	-3	5	-10	0.45	-0.16	5
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	35	73	+5	36	+15	0.53	-0.03	4
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	39	68	+2	25	0	0.12	-0.38	3
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	43	63	-2	19	-12	1.13	+0.64	6
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	41	71	-4	21	-16	0.57	+0.08	4
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	46	76	+3	65	+20	0.20	-0.29	2
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	44	75	-4	33	-21	2.15	+1.69	7
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	43	65	-5	38	-27	1.53	+1.11	7
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	46	72	-3	64	-12	3.19	+2.77	5
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	50	81	-3	74	-13	0.86	+0.47	3
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	46	69	-8	48	-34	0.08	-0.24	3
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	54	82	+2	114	+7	0	-0.28	0
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	50	76	-6	78	-37	0.58	+0.36	2

DFN = Departure from Normal

Summary of period from March 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>:

Air temperature departure from below normal had frequency of 10 of 14 weeks (71% of the period), averaging 4.2 degrees. Departure above normal occurred 4 weeks (29% of the period) averaging 3 degrees.

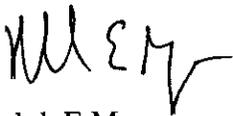
Growing degree days had a similar pattern where departure below normal (71% of the period) averaged 19.5 days and the remaining weeks averaged 10.5 days above normal.

Total precipitation was 13.42 inches for the period, with the normal amount of 6.32 inches, 212% of normal. It rained 58 of 98 days, 59% of the period.

An FSA Fact sheet is enclosed with additional information.

Please note the Governor must make this request within 90 days from early July when the damaging weather ended.

Please call me if you have any questions. Your assistance is sincerely appreciated.



Ralph E Meyer  
County Executive Director,  
Clackamas Multnomah County FSA