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Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to Host Media Conference Call to Announce Disaster Assistance Improvements and Support for Farmers Affected by Extreme Weather

On WEDNESDAY, July 11, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a national media conference call to announce improvements to USDA's disaster designation process and enhancements to existing disaster-related support for American producers. Vilsack will also discuss how a strong farm safety net is important to sustain the success of American agriculture, especially as extreme heat and drought conditions grip much of our nation's farm and ranch land and Congress continues to debate a new farm, food and jobs bill. During times of need, USDA will continue to respond to disasters across the country with direct support, disaster assistance, technical assistance, and access to credit.

Although USDA's authority to operate the major disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on Sept. 30, 2011, the Secretary will detail a number of improvements to existing USDA programs that will help struggling producers endure various disasters.