

Disaster Declaration Sought for all Missouri Counties

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon is asking the federal government to declare every county in Missouri agriculture disaster areas due to drought conditions. One of the people who provided Governor Nixon with the information he needed to make the request is Dan Gieseke, the Farm Services Agency Loan Chief.

Based on information from a statewide survey by the Farm Service Agency, the governor told Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack that farmers in every county have lost at least 30-percent of their crop yields.

Gieseke says Missouri is one big dry spot. (play audio :23 “as well.”)

The FSA last week forecast at least a 50-percent loss of the corn crop. Gieseke says a lot of the corn has not pollinated because it didn’t get any moisture, and some corn farmers have given up. (play audio :22 “cattle.”)

Gieseke says a disaster declaration would bring financial help. (play audio :23 “implement.”)

Gieseke says a lot of row crop farmers have become spectators. In addition, he says Missouri’s hay crop has been wiped out. (play audio :09 “state.”)

High temperatures, low humidity and a lack of snow last fall and winter has contributed to the difficult conditions for Missouri farmers and ranchers.