



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

December 30, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 200-A  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As you are aware, Florida has recently experienced extremely cold temperatures for this time of year. The consecutive days of sustained hours of below freezing temperatures resulted in a tremendous amount of damage to agricultural production throughout the state. It appears that many of Florida's counties will meet the damage threshold for a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretarial Emergency Disaster Declaration.

The depth and breadth of the damage will continue to be seen in the days and weeks ahead. In addition to the crops that were lost, there is likely to be quality issues for some of the crops that can be harvested. Citrus, tomatoes, nursery crops, green peppers, tropical fish, sweet corn and green beans are just some of the crops that appear to have sustained significant damage. Unfortunately, this weather event affected crops for both the 2010 and 2011 crop years. In addition, we also received notice that some of our counties were experiencing drought conditions prior to the freeze. For this reason, I would appreciate your issuing a primary county disaster declaration for the following Florida counties for the crop year and type of disaster specified below:

<u>County</u>	<u>Type of Disaster</u>	<u>Date(s) of Event</u>	<u>Crop Year</u>
Alachua	Freeze, Frost	11/5/10–12/16/10	2010
Bay	Drought	6/1/10–10/31/10	2010
Bradford	Freeze, Frost	11/5/10–12/16/10	2010
Calhoun	Drought	7/19/10–continuing	2010
Charlotte	Freeze, Frost	12/6/10–12/15/10	2010
Clay	Freeze, Frost	12/12/10–12/15/10	2011
Collier	Freeze, Frost	12/6/10–12/15/10	2010
Dade	Freeze	12/14/10–12/15/10	2010 and 2011
DeSoto	Freeze	12/7/10–12/16/10	2010 and 2011
Dixie	Freeze/Frost	11/5/10–12/16/10	2010
Flagler	Freeze, Frost	12/13/10–12/15/10	2011
Gadsden	Drought	7/27/10–continuing	2010
Gilchrist	Freeze/Frost	11/5/10–12-16-10	2010
	Drought	10/20/10–continuing	2010
Glades	Freeze, Frost	12/2/10–12/15/10	2010 and 2011

<u>County</u>	<u>Type of Disaster</u>	<u>Date(s) of Event</u>	<u>Crop Year</u>
Hardee	Freeze	12/6/10–12/8/10	2010 and 2011
Hendry	Freeze, Frost	12/2/10–12/15/10	2010 and 2011
Highlands	Freeze, Frost High Winds	12/3/10–12-15/10	2010 and 2011
Hillsborough	Freeze	12/13/10–12/17/10	2011
Holmes	Drought	6/1/10–10/31/10	2010
Indian River	Freeze, Frost High Winds Drought	12/7/10–12/16/10 7/20/10–12/21/10	2011 2010
Jackson	Drought	6/1/10–10/31/10	2010
Lee	Freeze, Frost	12/6/10–12/15/2010	2010
Levy	Frost	11/5/10–12/16/10	2010
Madison	Drought	10/1/10–continuing	2010
Manatee	Freeze	12/7/10–12/16/10	2010
Martin	Freeze, Frost High Winds Drought	12/7/10–12/16/10 7/20/10–12/21/10	2011 2010
Okeechobee	Freeze, Frost High Winds Drought	12/3/10–12/15/10	2010 and 2011
Palm Beach	Freeze, Frost High Winds	12/7/10–12/15/10	2010 and 2011
Polk	Freeze	12/13/10–12/17/10	2011
Putnam	Freeze, Frost	12/13/10–12/15/10	2011
Sarasota	Freeze	12/13/10–12/16-10	2010
St. Johns	Freeze, Frost	12/13/10–12/15/10	2011
St. Lucie	Freeze, Frost Drought	12/7/10–12/16/10 7/20/10–12/21/10	2011 2010
Wakulla	Drought	10/1/10–continuing	2010
Washington	Drought	6/1/10–10/31/10	2010

Commissioner Charles Bronson has corroborated these losses with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Florida, and they agree that the widespread damage necessitates a disaster declaration for the listed counties. I respectfully request that you expedite these declarations so that Florida producers can begin to access much needed disaster relief.

Thank you in advance for your support of Florida's agricultural producers.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist

cc: Charles H. Bronson

CC/sls