

Ryan F. Quarles
Commissioner



Corporate Drive
Complex
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-0282

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

October 16, 2019

Mr. Brian Lacefield
State Executive Director
KY Farm Service Agency
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 205
Lexington, KY 40503

Dear Brian:

As Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, I have the honor of representing the nearly 76,000 farm families in Kentucky. These families work day in and day out to produce food and fiber for our communities. Today I write you to ask you in your capacity as State Executive Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) that your office initiate the process for requesting a disaster declaration for the Kentucky's counties that have suffered losses due to the extreme heat and drought.

As you know, Kentucky has experienced a significant "flash" drought. You and I have discussed how a USDA disaster declaration will allow our farmers an avenue to apply for emergency loans from FSA. The emergency loans made available will allow our farmers to extend credit while they try to recover from this drought. These loans allow them the ability to replace essential items such as equipment, livestock, or even the reorganization of their farming operation or to refinance certain debts.

Thank you for your cooperation and communication in recent weeks as we have continued to monitor this situation to help Kentucky's hard-working farm families.

Please do not hesitate to contact my staff or me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Quarles", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Ryan F. Quarles
Commissioner of Agriculture

