

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY
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STATE OF ALABAMA

October 15, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to request your urgent assistance on behalf of Alabama agricultural producers. Over the past week, as a result of Hurricane Michael, large numbers of Alabama agricultural producers have experienced severe losses around the state, particularly, but not isolated to, our most southeastern counties. Significant rainfall, wind, and flooding as a result of Hurricane Michael have adversely impacted a large number of Alabama crops, most significantly cotton. There is no chance the cotton will recover due to wind blowing lint from open bolls and boll rot from excess moisture.

I respectfully ask for your assistance in declaring the appropriate Alabama counties as agricultural disaster areas. I also request that you instruct Mr. David McCurdy, State Executive Director for the USDA's Farm Service Agency in Alabama, to proceed as quickly as possible with a formal damage assessment of the affected counties to determine the extent of the agricultural losses to date, and to provide you with an accurate assessment of the outlook for future losses. I have absolute confidence that such an assessment will result in a finding that a disaster declaration would be appropriate at the present time.

I also request the maximum assistance available to the State through existing USDA/FSA programs.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey".

Kay Ivey
Governor

cc: Commissioner John McMillan, Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Daniel Autrey, Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Chief of Staff
David McCurdy, Alabama USDA Farm Service Agency
Mitt Walker, Alabama Farmers Federation