

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We appreciate that you took the time to visit Iowa to see the impacts that several disasters have had on our state's agricultural economy. Unfortunately, we have had occasion to work with you through many hardships over the past few years. We value the partnership we have with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and look forward to continuing dialogue as our state recovers. Farmers in Iowa have faced brutal hardships including flooding, trade disruptions, ethanol demand loss, rising input costs, a global pandemic, a statewide drought, and overall low commodity prices.

The damage from the derecho that swept through the central part of the state combined with D3 drought has devastated large swaths of Iowa farmland. That's why we are appreciative of your quick action to issue a disaster declaration for 58 Iowa counties so far. However, there are still additional items that we will need going forward to provide Iowa farmers relief and aid so they can begin to rebuild and prepare their farms for future crop years.

In our conversations at county meetings with farmers, commodity groups, agricultural cooperatives, and businesses, we have identified the following needs for USDA assistance.

- Allow an actual production history yield exclusion to disaster-impacted counties so that producers receive adequate crop insurance coverage in future years.
- Give the Risk Management Agency the maximum amount of flexibility to not require farmers to harvest crops that have been destroyed.
- Move the due date for producers to pay their crop insurance premiums from September 30, 2020, to December 31, 2020.
- Ensure additional Coronavirus Food Assistance Program payments are issued for base acres and not harvested bushels due to crop damage from the disasters.
- Provide farmers a streamlined process to apply for grain storage loans to assist in rebuilding damage from the derecho.

Thank you again for taking time to hear Iowa farmers' concerns. We look forward to working with you to develop solutions for our state's agricultural economy.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator