

## Castle Commends Primary Federal Drought Disaster Designation for Delaware -- September 14, 2007

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Michael Castle is pleased to announce that Delaware's drought conditions have qualified the farm operators in our state for federal assistance in the 2007 crop year.

Yesterday, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) informed the Congressional Delegation that Delaware would have its own primary natural disaster designation due to extensive crop damage caused by severe drought conditions. Recent reports have estimated that 90 percent of Delaware farmers have suffered losses in excess of 30 percent of their expected crop production.

"Delaware farmers have had a difficult time producing successful crops this year as conditions have been far from hospitable. This federal disaster designation offers vital relief to our farmers," said Castle.

This announcement follows letters from Governor Minner; Secretary Scuse; and Congressman Castle, Senator Carper, and Senator Biden requesting that the Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, take the necessary steps to examine the significance of Delaware's crop damage. USDA originally announced that all three counties in Delaware be designated as "contiguous" because of our close proximity to primary disaster areas in Maryland.

This primary disaster designation makes farm operators in all Delaware counties eligible for low-interest emergency loan consideration from the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

For more information, please contact my office or the Delaware FSA office at (302) 678-4250.

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