



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

August 16, 2020

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Sara Creighton
Christine Monahan
Counsel for Plaintiffs
American Oversight
1030 15th St. NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

**RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2019-FPAC-BC-06023-F
Final Response**

Dear Mses. Creighton and Monahan:

This correspondence and the accompanying records constitute the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO) final response for FOIA request **2019-FPAC-BC-06023-F**.

This correspondence also responds to the matter of *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 1:19-cv-03259, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The pending Complaint in the above-referenced matter is based on USDA's alleged failure to comply with the applicable time-limit provisions of the FOIA in response to American Oversight's request for the following:

All email communications (including email messages, email attachments, and calendar invitations) between (1) Rural Development Georgia State Director Joyce White or Farm Service Agency Georgia Executive Director Tas Smith and (2) any of the following individuals or entities:

- i. Any personal email accounts attributed to Secretary Sonny Perdue;
- ii. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in perdue.pro;
- iii. Perdue, Inc., including anyone with an email address ending in perdueinc.com;
- iv. Perdue Partners, including anyone with an email address ending in perduepartners.com;
- v. Perdue Management Holdings LLC;
- vi. Perdue Business Holdings, Inc., including Robert Tuggle and anyone with an email address ending in dltj.com;
- vii. Senator David Perdue or anyone from his office, including the Senator and anyone with an email ending in perdue.senate.gov or perduesenate.com; or
- viii. AGrowStar, including anyone with an email address ending in agrowstar.com.

Please provide all responsive records from April 24, 2017, through the date the search is conducted.

Search Efforts

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users. The CEC also implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide.

A manual review of the search results was performed to identify responsive records and eliminate duplicates. Today's release is a total of 541 pages of responsive records, which are Bates Numbered 000001 to 000167.

The DFO has determined that certain information within the records should be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4), (5) and (6) (FOIA Exemptions 4, 5 and 6). Below is an explanation of the information withheld.

Application of 5 U.S.C §552(b)(4) "FOIA Exemption 4"

Exemption 4 of the FOIA protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). The exemption covers two distinct categories of information in federal agency records, (1) trade secrets, and (2) information that is (a) commercial or financial, and (b) obtained from a person, and (c) privileged or confidential. The Supreme Court recently addressed the definition of "confidential." *See Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, 139 S. Ct. 2356 (2019) ("At least where commercial or financial information is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner and provided to the government under an assurance of privacy, the information is 'confidential' within the meaning of Exemption 4."). The DFO has determined to withhold portions of emails under Exemption 4.

As an initial matter, the DFO has determined that the information marked as Exemption 4 meets the threshold because it is information obtained from a company seeking benefits to a USDA program, specifically, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The information is commercial as it relates to a company's inquiry into its eligibility for LIP. Finally, it is confidential information as it is customarily and actually treated as private or closely held.

Application of 5 U.S.C §552(b)(5) "FOIA Exemption 5"

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5). This language is construed to protect records that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context, including through the deliberative process privilege. As an initial matter, the information withheld meets the threshold requirement of Exemption 5 because it is contained in internal emails sent between federal employees. Where

possible, the DFO has determined to make discretionary releases of information that falls within the protection of Exemption 5.

To fall within the deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter. In this instance, the DFO is withholding potential policy questions and concerns prepared by an advisor for consideration by a supervisor. These items are pre-decisional in that they all are antecedent to any final agency decision. These items are also deliberative in that they reflect the evolving, back-and-forth process that is so integral to the Executive Branch decision-making process

If predecisional, deliberative communications were to be routinely released to the public, Executive Branch employees would be much more cautious in their discussions with each other, and in candidly discussing and providing all pertinent information and viewpoints in a timely manner to agency decision-makers. This lack of candor would seriously impair the Department's ability to engage in forthright, internal discussions necessary for efficient and proper agency decision-making.

Application of 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) "FOIA Exemption 6"

FOIA Exemption 6 permits the government to withhold information regarding individuals in "personnel, medical and similar files" when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and where such privacy interests outweigh any public interest that would be advanced by disclosure. For purposes of the FOIA, the public interest is advanced when disclosure of the requested information educates the public about the activities of the government.

Portions of the records are withheld under FOIA Exemption 6, including unpublished email addresses and telephone numbers, alias email accounts, social events unrelated to USDA business, information about families, information related to personal appointments and travel, and information detailing where federal employees rested overnight. The DFO is also withholding the alias email account of Secretary Perdue. All this information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information that applies to and identifies particular individuals.

Release of the unpublished telephone numbers and email addresses could subject individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Accordingly, there is a strong privacy interest in this information. In addition, individuals have a strong privacy interest in information social events unrelated to USDA business, information about families, information related to personal appointments and travel, and information detailing where federal employees rested overnight. Release of this information would not shed light on agency activities; therefore, there is no public interest in release.

With regard to the Secretary's alias email accounts, the agency has a significant interest in ensuring that its officials have the capacity to safely perform a full range of official functions, including emergency operations, continuity of operations, and devolution planning and

execution. These functions could not be accomplished if public email-writing campaigns impeded communications to the email accounts from which officials operate in emergency situations. In the event of emergency, not only are alias accounts necessary for safe and efficient emergency operations, but also so that family members can reach otherwise unavailable officials. While the existence of such alias email accounts and certain content of emails released therefrom may shed light on agency functions, the actual email addresses do not in and of themselves advance a public interest—particularly when balanced against the critical interest of agency officials in maintaining safe and responsible communication with critical business contacts including those in The White House, during emergency situations and situations presenting potential national security threats. With that said, in response to records requests, it is the agency's policy to process and release responsive documents derived from searches of all agency email accounts (including alias email accounts) to the extent not otherwise exempt or prohibited by law. Furthermore, we note that the disclosure of officials' primary official email accounts serves as the most appropriate point of contact for the public and poses the least amount of risk or threat in emergency operations.

Because there is a strong privacy interest in this information and no outweighing public interest to be advanced by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes the DFO to withhold the information.

In light of the matter *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 1:19-cv-03259, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, administrative appeal rights are not being provided in this response letter.

If you have any questions or concerns about this final response letter or the pending civil action, please contact Diana V. Valdivia, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia at diana.valdivia@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,



Alexis R. Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosure: Responsive Records (541 pages) (000001 to 000541)

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 10 Apr 2018 19:53:51 +0000
To: jody_redding@isakson.senate.gov;charles_white@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: Letter to Wayne Dillard and Phil Addy
Attachments: WayneDillardPhilAddy 041018.pdf

Jody and Charles,

Attached is a copy of a letter mailed today regarding Mr. Dillard and Mr. Addy's proposed FSA office location for the Marion/Webster County FSA office.

We have mailed hard copies for your reference as well.

If you have any questions let me know.

Thank you.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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Farm
Production
and
Conservation

Farm
Service
Agency

Georgia State
FSA Office
STOP 100
355 E. Hancock Ave.
Athens, GA
30601-2775

Voice: 706-546-2266
Fax: 855-409-5735

April 10, 2018

Mr. Wayne Dillard
Mr. Phil Addy
1130 Cemetery Road
Preston, GA 31824

Dear Mr. Dillard and Mr. Addy:

Your recent letter was received in my office on April 6, 2018. Thank you for your interest in locating an FSA office for Marion and Webster counties in the Webster County Courthouse Annex building. I appreciate the work you have put forth to ensure our customers and employees have accessible and properly located facilities.

At this time, USDA is undergoing a reorganization in which the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency will realign as one mission area entitled the Farm Production and Conservation Service (FPAC) that will allow USDA to better serve its agricultural producers. Any future office realignments will be based on forthcoming FPAC guidelines enabling USDA to better serve our customers.

Thank you again for reaching out to me. If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tas Smith
State Executive Director

cc: Webster County FSA Office
Gerald Greene, Georgia House of Representatives
Tony Kennedy, Webster County Commissioners
Jody Redding, Office of Senator Johnny Isakson
Charles White, Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue
Brent Hall, District Director

From: Gillan, Cherie (Perdue)
Sent: 27 Jun 2019 23:15:28 +0000
To: Gillan, Cherie (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Merkley Lead Bipartisan Effort To Ease Burdens On Agricultural Trucking



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 27, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senators Perdue, Merkley Lead Bipartisan Effort To Ease Burdens On Agricultural Trucking

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) are leading a bipartisan effort to level the playing field for the transportation of agricultural products. The *Agricultural Trucking Relief Act* will expand the definition of an “agricultural commodity” to include horticultural and aquacultural products, promote consistency across all federal and state agencies, and ease regulatory burdens on the trucking industry. This bill is cosponsored by U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Jim Inhofe (R-OK).

“American truckers play a key role in transporting agricultural goods across the country, so they shouldn’t have to navigate confusing shipping regulations,” **said Senator Perdue, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.** “Right now, certain crops, animals, and other farm products that are considered an ‘agricultural commodity’ are treated differently the minute they are put on a truck. That makes no sense. This bipartisan bill will clarify the trucking rules, so agricultural products can be delivered further and faster.”

“Small business operators, especially those shipping products that require immediate delivery—like flowers and trees—should not be in the dark about which shipping regulations apply to them,” **said Senator Merkley, ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.** “Yet confusingly, some goods that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency as ‘agricultural commodities’ are not eligible for the same transportation exemptions as other agricultural products. This bipartisan legislation is a necessary step forward in clarifying trucking rules, to make sure businesses in

every sector of Oregon’s agriculture industry have the same ability to deliver their products while they’re still fresh.”

“We need this bill to clarify which trucking rules apply to certain agriculture commodities. For example, our catfish producers are held to different standards once their product is loaded onto a truck for shipping. This is an unnecessary federal burden that needs to be fixed,” **said Senator Hyde-Smith, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.**

“I’m proud to support Georgia’s number one industry and ensure that all of Georgia’s agriculture products are treated equally under federal transportation regulations,” **said Senator Isakson.** “This legislation will provide clarity for Georgia’s farmers, producers and truck drivers.”

“Florida’s diverse agriculture industry plays a vital role in our state’s economy and in feeding our nation,” **said Senator Rubio.** “I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing the Agricultural Trucking Relief Act, which seeks to provide clarity and fairness for all agricultural commodities that are subject to federal trucking regulations.”

“With this legislation, Oklahoma farmers will no longer be forced to comply with some of the burdensome and unnecessary regulations they have had to deal with while transporting their products over the years,” **said Senator Inhofe.** “Oklahoma is rightfully recognized as and benefits from being one of the nation’s leading transportation hubs—Oklahoma agricultural truckers are a big reason for this. I’ve long fought to reduce burdensome hours of service regulations and I am proud to introduce this today for the Oklahoma agricultural community. I will continue to fight in Congress to make it easier for them to get their jobs done.”

Currently, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), the agency responsible for administering agricultural trucking laws, excludes horticulture products, such as greenhouse, nursery, ornamental, and turfgrass sod, from the list of defined “agricultural commodities” under transportation rules. Expanding the definition of an agricultural commodity will relieve regulatory burdens on the trucking industry, while also streamlining rules across the FMCSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all other federal and state agencies.

The *Agricultural Trucking Relief Act* was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 12, 2019 by U.S. Representatives Austin Scott (R-GA-08), Al Lawson (D-FL-05), Neal Dunn (R-FL-02), and Kurt Schrader (D-OR-05).

Click [here](#) for bill text.

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 26 Mar 2019 23:57:18 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Calls On Colleagues To Support Disaster Relief Package



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator David Perdue Calls On Colleagues To Support Disaster Relief Package

*“Every night, farmers in Georgia get on their knees and pray
that help will soon come.”*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, spoke on the Senate floor to urge support for his bipartisan disaster relief package. Today, the Senate voted 90-10 to begin debate on the bipartisan disaster relief package he introduced with Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and other senators. Senators Perdue and Isakson have been fighting for disaster relief funding since Hurricane Michael [devastated](#) Georgia and other states last October.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to watch.



Highlights:

Unprecedented Devastation: “Our farmers are resilient. They’ve weathered droughts, low-yield harvests, and poor farm economies. They’ve suffered through several years of low commodity prices as well. But they’ve never faced anything like this before. The strength and magnitude of Hurricane Michael was unprecedented.”

Unacceptable Delays: “This aid should have been funded as soon as we had an estimate of the damage just a few weeks after the hurricane hit. Instead, disaster aid got caught up in a partisan spending battle, and in typical Washington fashion, Congress kicked the can down the road.”

Farmers Praying For Relief: “Every night, farmers in my state get on their knees and pray that help will soon come. They pray their lenders will show compassion. They pray they won't go bankrupt. They pray they will be able to provide for their families. And, yes, they are praying for other people around the country who have been devastated just like they have.”

Washington’s Intransigence: “It’s unacceptable that Washington’s intransigence continues to threaten the livelihoods of the very people who sent us here to represent them.”

President Backs Puerto Rico Assistance: “The Trump Administration has been resolute in their support of the people of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma hit the island. To date, \$40 billion has already been allocated... This disaster relief bill includes \$600 million in additional nutritional assistance for the most vulnerable families in Puerto Rico.”

Democrats Previously Supported: “Some members of this body argue we should allocate more funding for Puerto Rico. I would remind them this is the same level of funding they have previously supported.”

Put Political Interests Aside: “Every day we continue debating this issue is a day the people across the country face crippling uncertainty. Today, I call on each of us to put our individual political interests aside and do the right thing for these people who are depending on us right now.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 13 Sep 2018 20:43:55 +0000
To: White, Charles (Perdue);daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: FSA Administrator Fordyce in Georgia Next Week
Attachments: DRAFT3 GA Itinerary_Savannah_091818jmc.docx

Charles and Daniel,

Just wanted to give you a heads up that FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce will be in Georgia next week.

Attached is an agenda for his visits with me on Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday afternoon is in flux....because of a possible dinner with the peanut shellers in Americus that evening.

We would welcome your attendance on any portion of the trip. I know Richard would appreciate greetings on behalf of Senator Perdue. Will send you another agenda when Thursday afternoon is more finalized.

Thank you.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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**Southern Georgia Trip Itinerary for Administrator Richard Fordyce**

Tuesday, September 18, 2018 – Saturday, September 22, 2018
 Washington, DC→Savannah, GA→Atlanta, GA→Washington, DC

HQ Contacts	Title	Office	Blackberry/Cell
FILL IN THIS INFORMATION			

Georgia Contacts:

Tas Smith	State Executive Director (GA)	706-546-2266	(b) (6) -usda (b) (6) -personal
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Tuesday, September 18, 2018**Time pm – Time pm** Flight from Washington, DC (DCA) to Savannah, GA (SAV)

Flight:
 Departs:
 Arrives:
 Confirmation:
 Locator:

Note: Tas Smith (SED) will pick up Administrator Fordyce and Kathy Sayers at Airport...government van.

Time am – Time pm En Route to (b) (6) Savannah Airport Hotel (driving)
Tas Smith, Administrator Fordyce, and Kathy Sayers**Time pm** Check in (b) (6) Savannah Airport

Location: (b) (6)

Phone:

Confirmation: (b) (6) and (b) (6) (Adm Fordyce and Kathy Sayers)

Wednesday, September 19, 2018**8:00 am – ??? am** En Route to Burke County USDA Service Center, Waynesboro, Georgia (driving)
Tas Smith, Administrator Fordyce, and Kathy Sayers**8:30 am – 10:30 am** Meet with FSA staff and County Committee**Attendees:**

Tas Smith, State Executive Director, Georgia FSA
 Brent Hall, District Director, Georgia FSA

Name

Name

Name

GEORGIA DRAFT 3 (9.11.18@3:00pm)

10:30 am – ??? am En Route to Screven County Service Center, Sylvania, Georgia (driving)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Meet with FSA staff and County Committee

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch: **Local buffet**

Attendees:

FSA staff and County Committee (names???)

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm En Route to Lee Cromley Farm and Bulloch Gin

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Lee Cromley Farm Tour; Bulloch Gin Tour

Attendees at Lee Cromley Farm:

Tas Smith, State Executive Director, Georgia FSA

Brent Hall, District Director, Georgia FSA

Owner of Farm??? (name and correct title)

Additional Attendees????

Attendees at Bulloch Gin:

Tas Smith, State Executive Director, Georgia FSA

Brent Hall, District Director, Georgia FSA

Members of Georgia Cotton Commission Board (names????)

Potential Questions/Concerns:

(b)(5) - Deliberative

2:30 pm – ??? pm En Route to Bulloch County Service Center, Statesboro, Georgia (driving)

3:00 pm – ??? pm Meet with FSA staff and County Committee

??? pm Check in (b) (6) Statesboro University Area

Location: (b) (6)

Phone:

Confirmation: (b) (6) and (b) (6) (Adm Fordyce and Kathy Sayers)

5:30 pm – ??? pm Meet with Commissioner Gary Black

Update Commissioner on FSA programs

6:30 pm – ??? pm Dinner with Georgia House of Representatives Rural Development Caucus

Comments regarding importance of FSA Farm Programs to rural economy

GEORGIA DRAFT 3 (9.11.18@3:00pm)

Thursday, September 20, 2018

8:00 am – 10:00 am En Route from Statesboro to Coffee County USDA Service Center, Douglas, Georgia (driving)
Tas Smith, Administrator Fordyce, and Kathy Sayers

10:00 am – 11:00 am Meet with FSA staff and County Committee. (Potential brief visit to local farm.)

Attendees:

Tas Smith, State Executive Director, Georgia FSA

Chad Scruggs, District Director, Georgia FSA

Name

Name

Name

11:00 am – 11:45 am En Route from Coffee County to Lowndes County.
Lunch from 11:15 – 11:45.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm En Route to Lowndes County USDA Service Center, Valdosta, Georgia (driving). Brief visit to tobacco field

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Meet with FSA staff and County Committee.

Attendees:

Tas Smith, State Executive Director, Georgia FSA

Chad Scruggs, District Director, Georgia FSA

Name

Name

Name

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm En Route to Bruce Honey Farm. Brief visit to a blueberry field.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Bruce Honey Farm visit (tour, honey extracting, etc.)

Attendees:

Tas Smith, State Executive Director, Georgia FSA

Chad Scruggs, District Director, Georgia FSA

Name

Name

Name

Potential Questions/Concerns:

(b)(5) - Deliberative

5:00 pm – ??? pm En Route to Georgia Blueberry Growers Meeting, Homerville, Georgia

Potential Questions/Concerns:

(b)(5) - Deliberative

GEORGIA DRAFT 3 (9.11.18@3:00pm)

Thursday, September 20, 2018 (continued)

???? pm

Check in (b) (6)

Location: (b) (6)

Phone:

Confirmation:

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 28 Jun 2019 13:11:10 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Members of Georgia Delegation Urge Timely, Effective Implementation of Disaster Relief Funds



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 28, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Members of Georgia Delegation Urge Timely, Effective Implementation of Disaster Relief Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) wrote this week to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to encourage the Trump administration to work with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to ensure that farmers affected by Hurricane Michael receive needed aid as soon as possible. They applauded Secretary Perdue for his support of disaster aid legislation signed into law on June 6, 2019.

The senators were joined in sending the letter by U.S. Representatives Buddy Carter (R-GA-01), Sanford Bishop, (D-GA-02), Austin Scott (R-GA-08), Rick Allen (R-GA-12), and David Scott (D-GA-13).

“We look forward to working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that disaster aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner so that producers affected by Hurricane Michael have the opportunity to rebuild their farms and livelihoods,” they wrote.

The senators and representatives offered additional guidance on specific recovery needs in Georgia as the disaster relief funding that was passed for Georgia and other states recovering from natural disasters is disbursed through federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As Secretary Perdue works to **“implement the more than \$3 billion appropriated for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP),”** the senators asked the administration to implement specific policies to meet the needs of agricultural sectors that suffered particularly severe damage from Hurricane Michael, including pecans, cotton, specialty crops, and forestry.

Earlier this month, President Donald J. Trump [signed into law](#) disaster relief funding that Perdue, Isakson and the Georgia delegation fought for months to secure for Georgians recovering from Hurricane Michael.

Read the full letter [here](#).

###

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 27 Feb 2019 23:44:40 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Urges Quick Action On Disaster Relief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue Urges Quick Action On Disaster Relief

“If we do not help these people right now, they may lose their businesses and livelihoods through no fault of their own.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, spoke on the Senate floor about the importance of quickly passing a disaster relief bill and encouraged Senate colleagues to support the [bipartisan disaster relief package](#) he introduced with Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and other senators.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to watch.



Highlights:

Time Is Of The Essence: “Our farmers simply cannot wait on disaster relief any longer. The situation in my state is dire. Rural communities are suffering. Economic activity is at an absolute standstill in many places because the federal government has yet to do its job. If we do not help these people right now, they may lose their businesses and livelihoods through no fault of their own. That's the reality we're facing here.”

Disaster Bill Has Trump’s Support: “Senator Isakson and I, along with several other senators, have introduced a supplemental disaster relief bill. President Trump has agreed to sign it. Our bill includes relief for agriculture and also provides additional funds for Georgia and other states like Florida, Alabama, the Carolinas, Alaska, Hawaii, and California that have battled natural disasters over the last year. It also builds on the Trump administration's past efforts and includes the remaining funding for Puerto Rico.”

Win For Farmers: “This bipartisan package is a win for our farmers, it's a win for families and businesses who were devastated by historic hurricanes in the Southeast and wildfires in the West, and it's a win for the people in Puerto Rico who the President has previously helped.”

Committed To Disaster Victims: “The President and Vice President have been absolutely resolute in their support of getting aid to the victims of these disasters. They are now asking Congress to pass our disaster relief bill right now.”

What’s At Stake: “I sincerely hope this body will move quickly and pass this disaster relief bill without further delay. I humbly ask each of my colleagues in the Senate for your individual support and for your vote on this disaster relief package that will save hundreds, if not thousands,

of farming families in my home state from having to give up what they love, and that is farming the land that in many cases they inherited from generations of their families.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 11 Apr 2019 21:32:02 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Decry Lack Of Action On Disaster Aid For Suffering States



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 April 11, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senators Decry Lack Of Action On Disaster Aid For Suffering States

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) today joined Senate colleagues, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), in expressing disappointment in Congress' failure to deliver critical disaster aid to their states to assist in recovery efforts from natural disasters in 2018 and 2019. It has been six months since Georgia and Florida took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael.

The senators have worked to negotiate in good faith since 2018 on a bipartisan disaster relief package to provide funding across the continental United States as well as Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands for regions that have experienced droughts, flooding, hurricanes, storms, volcanoes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. Many of these states, including Georgia, have not received the federal disaster assistance they were promised months ago. Other states would see a down payment on disasters that have occurred more recently, such as in the Midwest where flooding is ongoing, and in Alabama and Georgia where tornadoes devastated lives and communities earlier this year.

Historically, the federal government has stepped in to help victims recovering from natural disasters, and the same action is overdue and badly needed for these affected states. Despite months of negotiations, efforts to advance funding have stalled over partisan disagreements.

“Democrats ought to be ashamed of themselves for holding hostage farmers in the Southeast, fire victims in California, earthquake victims in Alaska, and flood victims in the upper Midwest,” **said Senator Perdue.** “This is yet another example of Democrat obstructionism. Last weekend, Senate Republican appropriators made another fair offer, but Democrats outright rejected it. President Trump and Senate Republicans have been more than reasonable in dealing with Democrats’ requests throughout this process. Previous disaster relief packages were not held up like this. Farmers in Georgia and across the country are missing planting season right now

because Democrats have been unwilling to negotiate. Time is of the essence, and we must get this disaster relief done immediately, so those who have lost everything can rest assured that help is on the way.”

“This lack of funding has put Georgia farmers at the breaking point. It is a shame that politics has again gotten in the way of aid for the people of our states who are in desperate need and for farmers who put food on our tables,” **said Senator Isakson**. “I am extremely disappointed that Congress will be leaving for a two-week state work period without a resolution and much-needed funding on the way for our states, which have already been pressed to cover disaster recovery expenses beyond what they can afford. We’ve asked Democrats to help the residents of our states. This is a disaster bill, and it’s not about politics, it’s about getting all Americans the help they need. I’m eager to work to get it done so farmers can get loans and get back to work.”

“Families across the country are still reeling from devastating natural disasters. It is beyond unfortunate that Democrats in Congress continue to block additional relief,” **said Majority Leader McConnell**. “The Senate has had ample opportunity to approve an aid package to help affected communities all across the country -- from the Southeast to the Midwest to the West Coast to Puerto Rico. But Democrats preferred to pick a political fight with President Trump instead. A number of my colleagues, particularly Senators Isakson, Perdue, Ernst, Rubio, Scott, Sullivan, and Tillis, have been stalwart champions for their states despite the partisan obstruction. We won’t stop working until we get this job done.”

“Historic flooding has devastated farms, destroyed homes, and damaged vital infrastructure systems in Missouri,” **said Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)**. “I’m disappointed Senate Democrats have stood in the way of getting much-needed resources to flood impacted areas. We need to get this aid package to the president’s desk. With damage assessments still ongoing, we must also be ready to move forward on any additional assistance that will be needed to help communities recover.”

“I am deeply disappointed that Senate Democrats are choosing to prevent us from passing much-needed disaster relief,” **said Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)**. “It has been six months since Hurricane Florence hit the Carolinas, inflicting catastrophic damage and flooding. Too many families are still waiting on help to rebuild their homes, small businesses are working overtime to meet another tourist season, and our military bases are in desperate need of repairs to maintain readiness. These delay tactics have to end, and the Senate must take up the disaster relief bill immediately upon its return.”

“Nebraskans are suffering after being hit by blizzards and severe flooding. It’s extremely upsetting that Senate Democrats are holding Nebraska’s relief funds hostage over their demand for additional resources for Puerto Rico, which already has received \$41 billion in approved funds,” **said Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)**. “People in my state are traumatized, and we need to get a funding bill that includes Nebraska passed now. I remain committed to working with my colleagues on both sides to do so.”

“Iowa farmers are under water, literally and financially, due to the floods that have ravaged portions of the state,” **said Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)**. “It is the responsibility of Congress

to step up during times of crisis and help out our fellow Americans. But rather than come to the aid of disaster victims in Iowa and throughout the country, congressional Democrats are playing politics. Iowans who need help to put their lives back together will certainly remember this as the same Democrat senators who voted ‘no’ ask for their vote in 2020.”

“Although more will be needed in the future, this package would have expedited critical aid for Missourians whose homes, crops, and livestock have been destroyed by catastrophic flooding,” **said Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)**. “It’s shameful that Democrats would hold hostage aid to farmers and ranchers in order to settle political scores. This is Washington at its worst.”

“After the 7.1 earthquake shook Alaska and thousands of aftershocks continued to shake Alaskans, our constituents came together to support their neighbors, strangers and each other – just as Americans in other states and territories have pulled together in the face of hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires. They didn’t take a break or look to leverage each other. They just worked together to respond,” **said Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)**. “I am disappointed we can’t follow their example and are instead looking to adjourn rather than rolling up our sleeves and compromising to get this disaster supplemental bill done for our fellow Americans.”

“Playing politics with disaster funding may score Senate Democrats points with their far-left base for ‘resisting’ the president, but it comes at the expense of real people and communities in Florida,” **said Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)**. “It’s been six months since Hurricane Michael struck Florida’s Panhandle, and we’re up against a very real deadline to deliver much-needed resources. Inaction and obstruction are inexcusable, and I’m ready to work with any of my Democratic colleagues who are willing to set politics aside to do their jobs.”

“The political hackery from Senate Democrats is dumb and it needs to end now,” **said Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE)**. “We’re still recovering from the biggest natural disaster in our state’s history. Nebraskans rolled up their sleeves and went to work, but Congress is playing typical partisan politics. This is shameful.”

“It’s frustrating that it has taken so long to secure this critical disaster relief for communities as they try to rebuild,” **said Senator Rick Scott (R-FL)**. “Families in the Florida panhandle and in Puerto Rico are suffering, and Congress needs to act. I’m working with Republicans and Democrats to get this done. We can’t wait any longer.”

“Alaskans are a tough, resilient, and caring people,” **said Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)**. “Within hours of the last November’s earthquake, the response of our local Emergency Response personnel, Alaska Department of Transportation and countless others that were out inspecting and repairing infrastructure within hours was phenomenal. However, there’s still much rebuilding that needs to be done to make Alaskans whole, and it’s unfortunate that a bipartisan relief package could not be reached this week – which would have provided much needed disaster funding to states like Alaska that seek to further that rebuilding process in the aftermath of a major natural disaster.”

“Since before Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina, I’ve been working with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to secure federal relief to help our communities recover from the

historic flooding damage,” **said Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)**. “While we were successful in providing an initial down payment for North Carolina, many families, farmers, and our military communities still need more federal assistance and time is of the essence. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer needs to stop the partisan political posturing so we can reach a deal. North Carolinians have already waited long enough for the federal resources they need to recover and rebuild.”

Senators Perdue and Isakson personally visited parts of Georgia devastated by Hurricane Michael in October with Vice President Mike Pence and pushed for immediate federal funding. After funding was not obtained by the end of 2018, Perdue and Isakson twice introduced disaster relief amendments to legislative vehicles under consideration by the Senate. Perdue and Isakson then introduced a \$13.6 billion [disaster relief package](#) with the backing of President Donald Trump after prior funding attempts were removed from other supplemental spending packages. Perdue and Isakson have repeatedly gone down to the Senate floor to impress upon their colleagues the urgent need for disaster aid funding.

On April 1, the Senate took votes on two amendments that would have provided funding for Georgia and other disasters, and both pieces of legislation failed to receive the necessary 60 votes to move forward.

Background:

- On November 30, 2018, Perdue and Isakson sent two letters requesting additional funding for disaster assistance for Georgians recovering after Hurricane Michael: the first letter to Senate [appropriators](#) and the second to Senate [leadership](#).
- On January 31, Perdue and Isakson [introduced](#) a supplemental agriculture disaster relief amendment to provide critical funding for Georgia and other states recovering from recent hurricane and wildfire damage.
- On February 13, Perdue and Isakson joined 11 other bipartisan senators in [sending](#) a letter to House and Senate leadership urging immediate action on a supplemental disaster relief package.
- On February 26, Perdue and Isakson joined Doug Jones (D-AL), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), Tim Scott (R-SC), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) to introduce a \$13.6 billion [disaster relief package](#) with the backing of President Trump after prior funding attempts were removed from other supplemental spending packages.

###

From: White, Charles (Perdue)
Sent: 21 Aug 2018 19:09:41 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Re: UGA-FSA Grower Meetings

Yes sir!

Charles White
 (b) (6)
 Regional Representative
 Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On Aug 21, 2018, at 3:09 PM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Let me call you in a little bit and give you an update. Are you around later this afternoon?

Sent from Email+ secured by MobileIron

From: "White, Charles (Perdue)" <Charles.White@perdue.senate.gov>
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 10:08:52 AM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: "Hale, Daniel (Perdue)" <Daniel.Hale@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: UGA-FSA Grower Meetings

Hey Tas,

Are you guys closing the office in Seminole County? I've gotten a couple of calls on this. Thx sir and go dawgs!!

Charles White
 (b) (6)
 Regional Representative
 Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On Aug 21, 2018, at 8:49 AM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Daniel and Charles,

Hope you are doing well.

Wanted to make sure you had the attached information regarding the UGA-FSA grower meetings on the new programs FSA is implementing on disaster, Seed Cotton, and tariffs. Please feel free to distribute as you see fit.

We will have an official flyer available next week. Hope you can join us.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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<UGA-FSA Meetings Sept 2018.docx>

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 12 Mar 2018 12:23:44 +0000
To: Ziesenhene, Greg (Perdue)
Subject: RE: Senator David Perdue Works To Strengthen Farm Lending Program

Great seeing you as well Greg!

Take care...let me know if you need anything.

From: Ziesenhene, Greg (Perdue) [mailto:Greg_Ziesenhene@perdue.senate.gov]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 12:43 PM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Senator David Perdue Works To Strengthen Farm Lending Program

Tas, Great seeing you on Friday! (b) (6)

Very respectfully,

Greg Z

Work Mobile: (b) (6)

E-mail: greg_ziesenhene@perdue.senate.gov

Office contact information:

Greg Ziesenhene
Regional Representative, Middle Georgia
Office of United States Senator David Perdue
3280 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 2640
Atlanta, GA 30305
Office Phone: (404) 865-0087
Office Fax: (404) 816-3435

Subject: Senator David Perdue Works To Strengthen Farm Lending Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2018

CONTACTS:

[Caroline Vanvick](#), 202-224-6594
[Lesley Fulop](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue Works To Strengthen Farm Lending Program

“Agriculture is Georgia’s largest economic driver and our farmers are the backbone of the industry”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) is taking action to preserve important loans used by farmers to start and grow their operations.

“Agriculture is Georgia’s largest economic driver and our farmers are the backbone of the industry,” **said Senator Perdue.** “Whether our farmers are just starting out or are looking to expand and improve, it’s critical they have the financial flexibility they need to get their farms up and running. I’m proud to work on strengthening this important loan program for our country’s farmers.”

The bipartisan *Farm Service Agency Loan Flexibility Act*, sponsored by Senator Perdue and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), would provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) with the authority it needs to issue approved loans during times of high demand and irregular funding from Congress. FSA’s operating loans are used by beginning farmers, women and minorities, and other disadvantaged borrowers for expenses such as livestock, equipment, and seed, while ownership loans help farmers develop land.

“For many farmers—and new farmers in particular—access to capital is a top issue, and in years past, the inability of FSA to lend to farmers in need because of loan program caps has been problematic for our industry,” **said Gerald Long, President of Georgia Farm Bureau.** “Georgia Farm Bureau is pleased that Senator Perdue (R-GA) has chosen to lead on this issue and many other agriculture issues in Congress.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

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From: Danny Brown
Sent: 6 Jul 2017 22:59:35 -0400
To: (b) (6) Secretary Perdue
Cc: Chris Wheeler
Subject: Re: Dropped Pin

ok, see you there.

Secretary Perdue

On Thu, Jul 6, 2017 at 9:48 PM, (b) (6) <[@osec.usda.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@osec.usda.gov)> wrote:

We can meet at Wanda and Earl Barrs place after we finish with EPA Director tomorrow.

(b) (6)
Plan to arrive around 2 pm. Let me know if Google Maps pin doesn't act right.

Dropped Pin

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPad

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From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 28 Jun 2018 18:13:57 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue: Farm Bill Is A Jobs Bill



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Caroline Vanvick](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue: Farm Bill Is A Jobs Bill

“Agriculture is not just a business, it's a way of life for many people around our country”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, spoke on the Senate floor about the 2018 Farm Bill, which is currently being considered by the U.S. Senate.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to watch.



Highlights:

Farm Bill Is A Jobs Bill: “One thing is very clear: this Farm Bill is indeed a jobs bill. Getting this across the finish line is simply a must for rural communities in Georgia and around the country.”

Prioritizes People: “I grew up working on the land and learned many hard lessons. At an early age, I learned that agriculture is not just a business, it's a way of life for many people around our country. This Farm Bill is an investment in those people, in our ag industry, and indeed in our country.”

Provides Certainty: “Over the long term, this will bring certainty to the American agriculture community. The last thing family farms need from Washington is more burdens, more regulations, and more intrusion.”

Achieves The Objective: “We have cracked down on fraud within the food stamps program. We have advanced turf grass and timber research. We have included provisions important to land grant universities. Now, this Farm Bill is not perfect, but it is a great compromise that achieves the objective.”

Competing Globally: “One provision that was eliminated would have helped ensure American textile mills have the tools they need to compete with other countries. I hope we can find a way to fix that.”

One-Size-Fits-All Doesn't Work: “Farms across our country have considerable differences based on things from region to crops to climate conditions. Given these differences, one-size-

fits-all measurements clearly don't work. It's unfortunate there is now an amendment on this Farm Bill that would measure contributions to the family farm by applying a single manual threshold for farms across the country. I think this is just wrong.”

Family Effort Should Be Recognized: “The opportunity to qualify as an ‘active contributor’ to the farm through management, bookkeeping, and other activities is important because it recognizes the contributions of all family members and individuals who actually participate in farming operations. I can tell you from personal experience that if it were not for my aunts, my cousins, my uncles, our farms would not have been successful. The point is even if an individual never drives a tractor, never plows a field, never milks a cow, he or she can still provide an important contribution to the vitality of the farm operation. It's a business, after all. Between now and when this Farm Bill reaches President Trump's desk, I hope this problem with the bill gets fixed.”

Backbone Of Agriculture: “I can tell you nobody gets 100% of everything they want in any deal. That's what we are here talking about today. While the current Farm Bill is not perfect, I encourage every member to support it and vote for it. It provides certainty in a very uncertain world for our agriculture community and the families who are the backbone of this industry.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 14 Feb 2019 22:16:16 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Votes To Secure The Southern Border



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue Votes To Secure The Southern Border

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) comments on the bipartisan solution to fully-fund the federal government, including border security:

“The Senate took action to address the national security crisis at our southern border. This bipartisan solution funds 55 miles of new barrier in the Rio Grande Valley border sector – the most dangerous and heavily-trafficked sector of the U.S.-Mexico border. Earlier this week, I visited the Rio Grande Valley to see the crisis firsthand. The growth in illegal drug and human trafficking is alarming. Our border patrol agents need these additional resources and barriers so they can do their jobs and protect the American people. This bipartisan package is a step in the right direction and allows President Trump to better secure the most concerning areas along our southern border.

“The fact that Congress is still discussing border security funding five months into the current fiscal year only underscores the dysfunction in Washington’s broken funding process. Additionally, I am deeply disappointed that Congress still has not addressed disaster relief funding for Georgia and other states that were devastated by last year’s hurricane and wildfire damage. Our people are hurting and in desperate need of more assistance as they work to rebuild, and we will have their backs.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 11 Jul 2019 17:14:41 +0000
To: Johnson, Alice; White, Charles (Perdue); Redding, Jody (Isakson)
Subject: FW: Reduced Office Hours - Cook County Notification
Attachments: News Release Cook County New Office Operation.doc

FYI:

If you have any questions let me know.

Thank you.

Tas

From: Westmoreland, Dianne - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2019 1:07 PM
To: Hall, Darby - FSA, Nashville, GA <darby.hall@usda.gov>
Cc: Scruggs, Chad - FSA, Blackshear, GA <chad.scruggs@usda.gov>; Mansfield, Kyle - FSA, Athens, GA <kyle.mansfield@usda.gov>; Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <tas.smith@usda.gov>
Subject: Reduced Office Hours - Cook County Notification

Darby,

Attached is a news release that needs to be posted in the Cook County FSA Office. I am working with the National Office to print and mail postcards to the Cook County producers.

If you change the attached copy, please email me a copy for my file.

Thanks

Dianne R. Westmoreland
Administrative Officer
Georgia State FSA Office
355 E Hancock Ave STOP 101
Athens, Georgia 30601-2775
Phone: (706) 546-2269 Ext. 2
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 1-855-409-5740

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J. Darby Hall, CED
516 A County Farm Road, Suite 2
Nashville, GA 31639
Email: darby.hall@usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 2019-001

Contact: J. Darby Hall
darby.hall@usda.gov

COOK COUNTY FSA OFFICE NEW HOURS OF OPERATION

The Cook County FSA Office is under a permanent shared management operation with the Berrien County FSA Office. Due to budget related challenges and limited resources available, this notification is to inform you that the Cook County FSA Office will operate with reduced hours and will be open to the public on Wednesday of each week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This change is effective August 1, 2019.

Producer records may be accessed by the Berrien County FSA Office at any time if you are unable to conduct your FSA business on Wednesday in the Cook County FSA Office.

Producers will have the option to select another Administrative Office to administer their farm records if it is more convenient.

Producers are encouraged to visit the Berrien County FSA Office to conduct their FSA business. The Berrien County FSA Office is located at 516 A County Farm Road, Suite 2, Nashville, GA 31639 and their telephone number is (229) 686-5557.

For more information contact Darby Hall, County Executive Director at (229) 686-5557.

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 28 Jun 2019 13:20:01 +0000
To: ben_ayers@perdue.senate.gov
Cc: White, Charles (Perdue); Rudolph, Terrance - NRCS, Athens, GA; Clark, Jackie - FSA, Athens, GA; Lester, Janice - NRCS, Athens, GA; Bogardus, Dale - NRCS, Athens, GA; Scruggs, Chad - FSA, Blackshear, GA
Subject: Letter to Senator Perdue on Lowndes County Service Center
Attachments: Signed Ltr to Senator Perdue...Lowndes Co Office.pdf

Ben,

Attached is a letter is a letter signed by Georgia FSA State Committee Chairman Allen Poole and Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors President Woody Snell to the Georgia delegation requesting Senator Perdue's support to halt GSA's efforts to relocate our Service Center in Lowndes County.

We currently have a first rate facility in Lowndes County and relocating to the Valdosta downtown area where there is little parking is not in the best interest of our customers. Any assistance Senator Perdue's office could provide to stop this move would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please let us know.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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United States Department of Agriculture

Farm
Production
and
Conservation

Farm
Service
Agency

Georgia State
FSA Office
STOP 100
355 E. Hancock Ave.
Athens, GA
30601-2775

Voice: 706-546-2266
Fax: 855-409-5735

June 27, 2019

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Senate
455 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Perdue:

On behalf of the Georgia State Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee and the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) we request your assistance in terminating the General Services Administration (GSA) efforts to relocate our Lowndes County Service Center from its current location to downtown Valdosta. This move would greatly inhibit the missions of FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide the most efficient and effective customer service to the producers of Georgia and specifically, those producers in Lowndes County.

Our Agencies previously occupied the space being proposed for relocation by GSA, which is located at 401 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia (the Old Post Office). The Service Center was relocated away from that space back in 2000, specifically due to the facility's inability to meet FSA and NRCS mission requirements. At the time of relocation away from the proposed GSA facility, numerous justifications for the move were submitted. These justifications were approved, and we were successfully relocated to our current facility.

Our joint teams have toured and reviewed the plans for relocation to the Old Post Office space. None of the previous issues that required our relocation have been resolved. When the USDA Service Center was previously located at the facility, customers would frequently encounter no parking availability at the building itself and would mistakenly park in other parking locations, only to have their vehicles towed. Additionally, the downtown traffic and excessive congestion are not conducive to farmers and producers traveling from the outlying communities to this proposed location. For USDA to lease a facility that does not provide the proper parking spaces, thereby not allowing our customers to park their vehicles, is not only unacceptable to the accomplishment of our mission, but also not conducive to the high-quality customer service that we expect to deliver.

There is also another issue of concern, current tenants of the facility include a Court system and Probation Office. The clientele and other patrons affiliated with these tenants is extremely disconcerting to the physical safety of our customers. We must be ever-mindful and diligent of the safety of all our constituents in this scenario.

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Senator David Perdue

Page 2

Over the past year, the South Georgia agricultural community has been devastated by Hurricane Michael, which caused extreme crop and land loss, and which has made the Lowndes County Service Center a stronghold of activity. Relocating this office to a space that does not provide the necessary customer service capabilities would cause a tremendous burden for these producers who are already facing significant economic challenges.

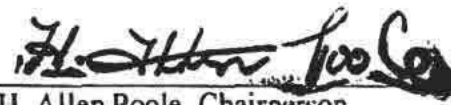
The current Service Center is a first-rate center that provides an optimal experience for the farmers of Lowndes and the surrounding counties. It is located next to the Lowndes County Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Farmers Supply Company, as well as livestock barns and other agricultural facilities.

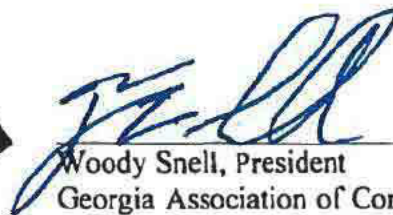
Georgia's FSA and NRCS thrive every day to meet Secretary Perdue's mission "to make USDA the most effective, most efficient, and most customer-focused Department in the Federal government." This is a mission we take seriously and have fully embraced. In order to continue to meet this standard, we must be able to provide the best and most accessible facilities to our producers and customers.

Any assistance you are able to provide us to halt this effort will be greatly appreciated and extremely beneficial to our customers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


H. Allen Poole, Chairperson
State Committee
Georgia State Farm Service Agency


Woody Snell, President
Georgia Association of Conservation Districts
woody@gacd.us
Phone: (b) (6)

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 29 Jun 2018 13:04:32 +0000
To: daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: Microloans

Hey Daniel!

Hope things are well.

From our data it looks like the following microloans and their dollar amounts were 'stacked' (put on hold because of funding limits) at various points in 2016 and 2017:

2016 --- 18 for \$587,690

2017 --- 5 for \$197,000

Please let me know if additional info is needed.

Tas

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 6 May 2019 17:43:24 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators David Perdue & Rick Scott: Families Can't Wait Any Longer for Disaster Relief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 May 6, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senators David Perdue & Rick Scott: Families Can't Wait Any Longer for Disaster Relief

“Together, we should demonstrate to the American people that in times of natural disasters, Washington can still work.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Rick Scott (R-FL) today sent a letter to Democrat Senators in states impacted by natural disasters urging them to immediately pass disaster relief funding, which has been stalled by political obstruction. It's been 208 days since Hurricane Michael devastated Florida's Panhandle and Southwest Georgia.

See the full letter [HERE](#) and below.

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, this body has a long history of supporting states hit by natural disasters with supplemental funding bills moved quickly and with bipartisan support. Within 10 days of Hurricane Katrina, Congress passed supplemental disaster relief funding. After Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, it took 17 days. For Hurricane Andrew, the last Category 5 storm to strike the United States, it took 34 days.

Even after Hurricane Sandy, which sparked substantial debate, Congress passed a supplemental funding bill 74 days later. At the time, Senator Schumer complained about the delay and said “we can't wait any longer.”

It's been 208 days since Hurricane Michael devastated Florida's Panhandle and Southwest Georgia and a disaster funding bill is still in limbo. Fortunately, there's been some movement in the last few days and we hope that both sides are ready to come to an agreement.

We can't wait any longer. Our states need to continue repairs on military installations, help communities with debris removal, and support our agricultural communities that were devastated by this storm.

Let's be clear, the people of Florida and Georgia are not alone in this fight. Our bipartisan disaster funding includes support for families impacted by:

- An earthquake in Alaska,
- Volcanic activity in Hawaii,
- Devastating wildfires in California,
- Hurricanes that hit North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and the central Northern Mariana Islands,
- The 2017 hurricanes in Puerto Rico,
- Tornadoes in Alabama and Georgia, and
- Recent flooding in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and South Dakota.

The bill includes funding for states represented by Senators Murkowski, Sullivan, Schatz, Hirono, Feinstein, Harris, Burr, Tillis, Graham, Tim Scott, Rubio, Isakson, Shelby, Jones, Grassley, Ernst, Roberts, Moran, Fischer, Sasse, Blunt, Hawley, Thune and Rounds.

In California and Hawaii, this will specifically help communities rebuild from devastating wildfires and volcanic eruptions. Without this critical assistance, your states will struggle to recover. This situation is not partisan and if no action is taken these communities will continue to suffer.

Today, we are urging all of our Senate colleagues, and particularly those in the states impacted by these recent natural disasters, to work together and get a deal done and push both party's leaders to bring a bill to the floor. There should be a vote this week. We see no reason to delay it any longer.

However, we need your help to get this done. We should take action now to help those who need immediate assistance. Together, we should demonstrate to the American people that in times of natural disasters, Washington can still work.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
United States Senator

David Perdue
United States Senator

###

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 6 Jun 2019 16:06:59 +0000
To: ben_ayers@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: Thank You

Ben,

Just wanted to send you a note to tell you I am grateful we are for the work Senator Perdue and you have put forth to make disaster relief a reality. I know it had to be very tiring with a lot of long nights, but the farmers and producers of this state are grateful. I hope we never take for granted the friends we have in Congress working on our behalf.

I am sure we were talking a lot more as the implementation kicks off.

Thanks again.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 29 May 2018 21:00:23 +0000
To: daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov; White, Charles (Perdue)
Subject: SW GA Storm Report
Attachments: SW GA Storm Report 5-29-18.docx

Daniel and Charles,

This is a brief report I received this morning on some of the storm damage in SW GA.

Charles you may have a more accurate reading since you are on the ground.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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Storm report
District 4

All offices are up and running at this time. Rainfall since Friday has ranged from 2 to 6 inches. No flooding has been reported.

Cotton and peanuts: planting is 60% complete

Corn: cloudy weather and lack of 'heat' units will affect pollination

Small grains: many acres remain unharvested and production and quality will be affected

Produce: extended period of rain has affected spring planted beans, sweet corn, and cucurbits harvest.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 31 Jan 2019 13:13:56 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Isakson Continue Fight For Agriculture Disaster Relief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senators Perdue, Isakson Continue Fight For Agriculture Disaster Relief

Introduce Package To Assist Farmers Recovering From Hurricane, Wildfire Damage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduced a supplemental disaster relief package to provide critical funding for Georgia and other states recovering from recent hurricane and wildfire damage.

“Farmers in Georgia and other states across the country are hurting from historic hurricanes and devastating wildfires,” **said Senator Perdue, member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.** “We cannot wait around for Congress to complete this year’s government funding. Federal disaster relief should be considered immediately. In October, President Trump and Vice President Pence both saw the devastation firsthand and promised to help Georgia and other states rebuild. Now, Congress has the opportunity to help them keep that promise. I will continue to fight for disaster relief until our farmers and rural communities have the resources they need to get back on their feet.”

“Georgia farmers are still recovering from natural disasters in 2017 and 2018, and they need all the support they can get,” **said Senator Isakson.** “We’ve got to help them and the other farm communities who have had natural disasters change their lives through no fault of their own, and I will keep working to get them the federal aid they need.”

This supplemental funding package will provide about \$3 billion for disaster relief across the country, including critical funds for Georgia farmers recovering in the wake of Hurricane Michael. Perdue and Isakson plan to continue raising this issue in the Senate until Congress approves disaster funding.

On November 30, 2018, Senators Perdue and Isakson sent two letters requesting additional funding for disaster assistance for Georgians recovering after Hurricane Michael: the first letter to Senate [appropriators](#) and the second to Senate [leadership](#).

Click [here](#) for full text of the amendment.

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 15 Feb 2019 22:42:25 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Isakson To Introduce Disaster Relief Package



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 February 15, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senators Perdue, Isakson To Introduce Disaster Relief Package

Will lead Senate effort to provide relief for Georgia, other states impacted by recent hurricanes, wildfires

ATLANTA, GA – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) announced they will introduce a stand-alone disaster relief package to provide critical funding for Georgia and other states recovering from recent natural disasters, including Hurricane Michael.

“Enough is enough. Georgia and other states across the country are hurting from historic hurricanes and devastating wildfires, and the federal government continues to drag its feet,” **said Senator Perdue, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.** “In October, President Trump and Vice President Pence both saw the devastation firsthand and promised to help Georgia and other states rebuild. It’s long past time to make good on these promises. For farmers in Georgia, it’s not a matter of putting a crop in the ground this year – it’s a matter of putting a crop in the ground ever again. I will continue to fight for disaster relief until our farmers and rural communities have the resources they need to recover.”

“The biggest immediate crisis facing Georgia today is the relief money needed for the lost agricultural products from the hurricanes that have hit here and in other states,” **said Senator Isakson.** “We are in crisis mode for our farmers and agricultural community, and we will not stop until we get needed aid for those who have suffered devastation. Additional losses grow every day we wait, and it’s far past time we fulfill the promises that were made. Supplemental disaster funding was overwhelmingly supported in funding proposals voted on earlier this year, so there shouldn’t be a reason for further delay on a supplemental disaster relief package to provide critical aid for Georgians.”

The senators plan to introduce a supplemental funding package after the U.S. Senate reconvenes on February 25 that includes \$3 billion to provide critical agriculture disaster relief for farmers recovering in the wake of Hurricane Michael, along with additional funds for communities in Georgia and other states. Senators Perdue and Isakson have vowed to continue raising this issue in the Senate until Congress approves disaster funding.

Background:

- On November 30, 2018, Perdue and Isakson sent two letters requesting additional funding for disaster assistance for Georgians recovering after Hurricane Michael: the first letter to Senate [appropriators](#) and the second to Senate [leadership](#).
- On January 31, Perdue and Isakson [introduced](#) a supplemental agriculture disaster relief amendment to provide critical funding for Georgia and other states recovering from recent hurricane and wildfire damage.
- On February 13, Perdue and Isakson joined 11 other bipartisan senators in [sending](#) a letter to House and Senate leadership urging immediate action on a supplemental disaster relief package.

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 5 Apr 2019 19:34:52 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Speaks At Fort Valley State University



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator David Perdue Speaks At Fort Valley State University

Highlights Importance Of HBCUs In Georgia's Agriculture Community

FORT VALLEY, GA – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Congressional Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus and Senate Agriculture Committee, today spoke at the Fort Valley State University 37th Annual Ham & Egg Legislative Breakfast. Senator Perdue was joined by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA-02), and President of Fort Valley State University Dr. Paul Jones.

Last year, Senator Perdue and Congressman David Scott (D-GA-13) [secured funding](#) in the 2018 Farm Bill for agriculture-focused scholarships at Historically Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities across the country, including Fort Valley State University.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to download photos.



“As a member of the HBCU Caucus, one of my top priorities is increasing opportunities for all students to pursue the skills they need to succeed,” **said Senator Perdue.** “Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry and a major reason why our state continues to be the best state in the country in which to do business. Last year, Congressman David Scott and I worked to secure funding in the 2018 Farm Bill for new agriculture scholarships at HBCUs across the country, including Fort Valley State University. These scholarships will help encourage diverse and qualified leadership in our agricultural community. Thanks to Dr. Paul Jones for inviting Sonny, Congressman Bishop, and myself to Fort Valley State University to highlight their work to help young Georgia farmers become the nation’s next agriculture leaders.”

“Our food and our planet should unite us all, and the federal and state officials who work together to enact policy which empowers both agricultural professionals and students are a testament to what we can accomplish by working in concert,” **said FVSU President Paul Jones.** “Governmental initiatives like the 2018 Farm Bill set the stage for Georgia and America increase their global competitiveness in the business and science of agriculture. Together we are enabling not just Fort Valley State University, but all of Georgia and the nation, to rise up and meet the challenges our future demands.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Vanvick, Caroline (Perdue)
Sent: 12 Jul 2018 14:17:25 +0000
To: Vanvick, Caroline (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator David Perdue & Secretary Sonny Perdue To Visit Georgia Agriculture Leaders



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 July 12, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Caroline Vanvick](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

MEDIA ADVISORY: **Senator David Perdue & Secretary Sonny Perdue To Visit Georgia Agriculture Leaders**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Friday, July 13, U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue will travel across Georgia to hear from farmers, foresters, researchers, and stakeholders in the agriculture industry. Senator Perdue and Secretary Perdue will participate in a roundtable discussion at Lewis Taylor Farms and a stakeholder meeting at the Georgia Forestry Association with Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, before touring the UGA Griffin Campus. They will also stop for lunch in their home county of Houston.

Senator Perdue, Secretary Perdue, and Commissioner Black Tour Lewis Taylor Farms

WHAT: Senator Perdue, Secretary Perdue, and Commissioner Black tour Lewis Taylor Farms and participate in a roundtable with Southwest Georgia agriculture leaders. Following the roundtable, they will hold a media availability.
WHEN: Friday, July 13th, 2018, 9:00 a.m. EDT
WHERE: 195 Ty Ty Omega Road, Tifton, Georgia 31793

Senator Perdue and Secretary Perdue Hold Media Availability at the White Diamond Grill

WHAT: Senator Perdue and Secretary Perdue hold a media availability outside of the White Diamond Grill.

WHEN: Friday, July 13th, 2018, 12:30 p.m. EDT

WHERE: 497 GA-247, Bonaire, Georgia 31005

Senator Perdue, Secretary Perdue, and Commissioner Black Participate in a Stakeholder Meeting at the Georgia Forestry Association

WHAT: Senator Perdue, Secretary Perdue, and Commissioner Black participate in a stakeholder meeting at the Georgia Forestry Association. Following the event, they will hold a media availability.

WHEN: Friday, July 13th, 1:30 p.m. EDT

WHERE: 551 North Frontage Road, Forsyth, Georgia 31029

Secretary Perdue and Senator Perdue Tour UGA Griffin Campus

WHAT: Senator Perdue and Secretary Perdue tour UGA Griffin's Turfgrass and Weed Science facility and receive a briefing on current research from faculty. Following the event, they will hold a media availability.

WHEN: Friday, July 13th, 3:20 p.m. EDT

WHERE: 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, Georgia 30223

****NOTE: Media interested in attending must RSVP to press@oc.usda.gov by THURSDAY, July 12th at 6:00 p.m. EST.***

###

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 29 Aug 2018 20:33:47 +0000
Bcc: Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov; Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov; Michael.Reed@mail.house.gov; Paul.Fryer@mail.house.gov; marydee.beal@mail.house.gov; joel.katz@mail.house.gov; bud.whitmire@mail.house.gov; Alice.Johnson@mail.house.gov
Subject: UGA/FSA Producer Meetings Flyer
Attachments: Producer Meetings Flyer.pdf

Attached is a flyer announcing UGA Extension and Farm Service Agency producer meetings outlining provisions in the Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP), Seed Cotton, and the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

Please feel free to distribute this meeting announcement as you see fit.
If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

University of Georgia
Extension Service



USDA Farm Service
Agency

New FSA Program
Updates

September 10-12th

Several Meeting
Locations Available!

Bainbridge

Perry

Statesboro

Tifton

Cartersville

Watkinsville

For Questions:
229-386-3512

Producer Meetings

Meeting Discussions:

- Market Facilitation Program (MFP)
- Seed Cotton: Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs (ARC/PLC)
- Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP)

Date	Time	Address & Phone Number
9/10/18	9:00-10:30AM	Bainbridge: Extension Office 1300 E. River Road Bainbridge, GA 39817
9/10/18	2:45-4:15PM	Perry: Extension Office 801 Main Street Perry, GA 31069
9/11/18	9:00-10:30AM	Statesboro: Extension Office 151 Langston Chapel Road Statesboro, GA 30458
9/11/18	3:00-4:30PM	Tifton: UGA Tifton Campus 15 RDC Road Tifton, GA 31794
9/12/18	9:00-10:30AM	Cartersville: Stiles Auditorium 320 West Cherokee Avenue Cartersville, GA 30120
9/12/18	3:00-4:30PM	Watkinsville: Jay Phil Campbell Building 1420 Experiment Station Road Watkinsville, GA 30677

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 13 Sep 2018 21:47:51 +0000
To: White, Charles (Perdue)
Subject: Re: FSA Administrator Fordyce in Georgia Next Week

Thanks Charles!

From: "White, Charles (Perdue)" <Charles.White@perdue.senate.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 5:31:29 PM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: "Hale, Daniel (Perdue)" <Daniel.Hale@perdue.senate.gov>, "Tostensen, Sam (Perdue)" <Sam.Tostensen@perdue.senate.gov>, "Hayes, Jennifer (Perdue)" <Jennifer.Hayes@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FSA Administrator Fordyce in Georgia Next Week

Thanks Tas!

Looping in Jennifer and Sam in case they want to join y'all on Wednesday.

Charles White

(b) (6)

Regional Representative
 Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Date: September 13, 2018 at 4:43:55 PM EDT
To: "White, Charles (Perdue)" <Charles.White@perdue.senate.gov>, "daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov" <daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: FSA Administrator Fordyce in Georgia Next Week

Charles and Daniel,

Just wanted to give you a heads up that FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce will be in Georgia next week.

Attached is an agenda for his visits with me on Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday afternoon is in flux....because of a possible dinner with the peanut shellers in Americus that evening.

We would welcome your attendance on any portion of the trip. I know Richard would appreciate greetings on behalf of Senator Perdue. Will send you another agenda when Thursday afternoon is more finalized.

Thank you.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 14 Sep 2018 17:43:10 +0000
To: sam_tostensen@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: FW: Wednesday

FYI:

From: Richey Seaton (b) (6)@georgiacotton.org>
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 1:40 PM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Wednesday

Tas,
Spoke with Lee and let's meet at his farm office and then go to the gin. The address is:
9714 Brooklet Denmark Road
Brooklet, GA 30415

Richey Seaton, Executive Director
Georgia Cotton Commission
P.O. Box 1464
401-A Larry Walker Parkway
Perry, Georgia 31069
478-988-4235 Office
(b) (6) Cell
(b) (6)@georgiacotton.org

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 8 Mar 2018 17:58:44 +0000
To: Jessica Perdue
Subject: RE: FW: (b) (6) Farm Loan Office Transfer Request

I am super excited for y'all!

I just think it is so fantastic that Secretary Perdue is in this position leading agriculture for the nation!

It's been an incredible experience thus far!

I am glad you reached out.

If you need anything or get questions reach out to me any time.

Take care and tell everyone I said hello.

Tas

From: Jessica Perdue (b) (6)@perdue.pro]
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 12:16 PM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: (b) (6) Farm Loan Office Transfer Request

Tas,

Thanks! I'm so excited for you and the work you are doing. Hope your whole crew is well, sorry to track you down.

I told Jim I would pass it along, no opinion on the outcome on my part. Bless these men, having been around farmers, it is amazing the different perspectives of a situation.

There is no doubt in my mind that you have a knack for taking care of whatever situation may come up.

Have a great week!

Jessica

On Thu, Mar 8, 2018 at 12:09 PM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Jessica,

I hope you are and Dan are doing well.

I miss seeing you guys in Warner Robins.

This is the response I sent to you regarding (b) (6) request to transfer loan offices, however, I entered your email incorrectly.

If you have been questions about this response, give me a call.

Thanks again.

Tas

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 12:05 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@perdue.pro>
Cc: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>; Tyson, Robert - FSA, Athens, GA <Robert.Tyson@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (6) Farm Loan Office Transfer Request

Jessica,

I hope you are doing well.

On March 5, 2018, I responded directly to (b) (6) letter, which you had previously forwarded to me. I regret I was unable to approve his request to transfer farm loan offices. FSA Farm Loan regulations require applications to be filed in the FSA office that serves the area where the farm headquarters is located.

However, we are concerned that (b) (6) felt his application was not handled in a professional manner.

We addressed these issues with the Eastman office, and I will personally ensure (b) (6) application is handled in a professional and customer-focused manner.

(b) (6) also indicated that farmers in Pulaski and Wilcox counties received preferential treatment over farmers from Dodge and Bleckley counties. While our most recent data shows there are more borrowers from Dodge and Bleckley counties than Pulaski and Wilcox, I can assure you we will be monitoring this situation going forward to ensure every potential borrower is treated fairly.

My direct line is (b) (6) and my cell (b) (6). If you need anything further, please feel free to give me a call.

Thanks again Jessica!

Tas Smith
 State Executive Director
 Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
[355 E. Hancock Ave.](#), Stop 100

Athens, GA 30601

[706-546-2266](tel:706-546-2266)

FAX [1-855-409-5735](tel:1-855-409-5735)

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 11 Dec 2018 19:44:36 +0000
To: daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: FW: Early UGA Blueberry Numbers
Attachments: crop letter.pdf

Did you receive this?

From: Robert Redding <rlredding@reddingfirm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 12:57 PM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Early UGA Blueberry Numbers

>
>

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION

Blueberry Research &
Demonstration Farm

July 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The 2017 freeze affected many blueberry growers, both with and without crop insurance. There were many young, newly established fields that were not eligible or had not been in production long enough to receive crop insurance. According to USDA Risk Management Agency, producers have to show a record of the crop reaching at least 1,000 pounds per acre in at least 1 of the 3 previous crop years. As for those producers who were eligible for crop insurance and did have it insured, the amount of money paid out to growers can be misleading. Growers are required to report on acreage and production each year, and those records are used to calculate an average of the actual production history yields. That means a grower may have a mature field producing 8,000 pounds per acre but since they have had insurance since it was only producing 1,000 pounds per acre when it was younger, then it brings down the average yield to 4,500 pounds per acre. That average production history yield is then multiplied by the coverage level percentage, for example 0.60 for 60% coverage. The 60% coverage in this example is an average of the percent coverage most growers would select. Growers will often go with a high level of coverage to help protect an operating loan since the crop insurance can serve as a form of collateral for lenders (source: AgSouth, Jon Harris). Now we are only at 2,700 pounds per acre guaranteed. Then the actual pounds of production are subtracted, say only 500 pounds per acre given the freeze event. Pounds loss are 2,200 in this example. Keep in mind that the grower actually had 8,000 pounds production per acre before the freeze event, but the way crop insurance calculations work, they are only viewing it as 2,200 pounds loss. Now the pounds loss are multiplied by the price election which is the value per pound of fruit used to determine premium and indemnity under the policy. Take 2,200 pounds loss and multiply by \$0.81 price election, assuming rabbiteye crop. This gives \$1,782 indemnity per acre.

The current USDA RMA report of monies given to growers in indemnity payments is not a true representation of the loss. If you took 8,000 pounds per acre that was the actual loss and multiplied that loss by \$0.81 price election, then the amount of indemnity per acre would be \$6,480, which is more representative of the loss incurred by the grower. Multiply \$6,480 by 16,000 acres of blueberries reported by NASS and the total indemnity needed for the state of Georgia would be over \$103 million. This total does not include growers who were not eligible for crop insurance.

In 2017, we produced 28 million pounds multiplied by \$1.75 average price per pound, then the crop harvested was worth about \$49 million to the growers. One could estimate the total loss to the grower for 2017 by taking the \$49 million from the portion of the crop that was harvested plus \$24 million in indemnity payments to growers and subtract that from the \$103 million needed in indemnity for the

state of Georgia and potentially there would be \$30 million less to the growers than what you would have in a normal production year.

Sincerely,

Renée Allen

Renée Allen
Area Blueberry Agent
UGA Extension – Bacon County
203 S. Dixon St., Suite 3 | Alma, GA 31510
912-632-5601 Office | (b) (6) Cell
reneemh@uga.edu

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 1 May 2018 17:57:42 +0000
Bcc: hart.thompson@mail.house.gov;michael.reed@mail.house.gov;marydee.beal@mail.house.gov;craig.anderson@mail.house.gov;alice.johnson@mail.house.gov;zellie.duvall@mail.house.gov;ashley.osterkamp@mail.house.gov;jason.murphy2@mail.house.gov;ben_ayers@perdue.senate.gov;daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov;Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov;charles_white@perdue.senate.gov;jack_overstreet@isakson.senate.gov
Subject: Fwd: Perdue Announces Additional Hurricane and Wildfire Recovery Details | USDA

Some additional details were provided by Secretary Perdue regarding the WHIP program.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Tas

Sent from Email+ secured by MobileIron

From: "Tas Smith" (b) (6)
Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 1:40:02 PM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Perdue Announces Additional Hurricane and Wildfire Recovery Details | USDA

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/05/01/perdue-announces-additional-hurricane-and-wildfire-recovery-details>

Perdue Announces Additional Hurricane and Wildfire Recovery Details

Press Release

Release No. 0093.18

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., May 1, 2018) – Under the direction of President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced new details on eligibility for a new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster program, [2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program](#) (2017 WHIP). In total, USDA’s [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) will deploy up to \$2.36 billion that Congress appropriated through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to help producers with recovery of their agricultural operations in at least nine states with hurricane damage and states impacted by wildfire. Following the announcement, Secretary Perdue issued this statement:

“Last year our nation experienced some of the most significant disasters we have seen in decades, some back-to-back, at the most critical time in their production year. While USDA has a suite of disaster programs as well as crop insurance available to help producers manage their risk, Congress felt it was important to provide extra assistance to our nation’s farms and ranches that were the hardest hit last year,” **Secretary Perdue** said. “At President Trump’s direction, our team is working as quickly as possible to make this new program available to farmers in need. Our aim is to provide excellent customer service, building on efforts which began the day the storm hit.”

Key Updates Include:

- **Hurricane Recovery:** To be eligible a crop, tree, bush or vine must be located in a primary disaster county with either a Presidential declaration or a Secretarial designation due to a 2017 hurricane. Crops, trees, bushes or vines located in other counties may also be eligible if the producer provides documentation the loss was caused by a 2017 hurricane.
- **Wildfire Recovery:** Any crop, tree, bush or vine, damaged by a 2017 wildfire is eligible.
- **Eligible Producers:** Eligibility will be determined on an individual basis, using the level of insurance coverage purchased for 2017 for the total crop acres on the area for which the WHIP application is

made. Eligible producers who certify to an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of at least 75 percent derived from farming or ranching, including other agriculture and forestry-based businesses during the tax years 2013, 2014 and 2015, will be eligible for a \$900,000 payment limitation with verification. All other eligible producers requesting 2017 WHIP benefits will be subject to a \$125,000 payment limitation.

- **Crop Insurance Requirement:** Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for WHIP. However, all producers opting to receive 2017 WHIP payments will be required to purchase crop insurance at the 60% coverage level, or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) at the 60% buy up coverage level if crop insurance is not available. Coverage must be in place for the next two applicable crop years to meet program requirements.
- **Acreage Reporting Requirements:** In addition, for the applicable crop years, all producers are required to file an acreage report and report production (if applicable).
- **Payment Formula:** FSA will calculate WHIP payments with this formula:

Payment = Expected Value of the Crop x WHIP Factor - Value of Crop Harvested - Insurance Indemnity

The WHIP factor ranges from 65 percent to 95 percent. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2017 will receive a 65 percent WHIP Factor. Insured producers, or producers who had NAP, will receive between 70 percent and 95 percent WHIP Factors; those purchasing higher levels of coverage will receive higher WHIP Factors.

Other USDA Disaster Assistance:

Drought, wildfires and other disasters continue to impact farmers and ranchers, and 2017 WHIP is just one of many programs available through

USDA to help with recovery. From crop insurance to on-the-ground rehabilitation programs like the [Emergency Conservation Program](#) (ECP) and [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP), USDA is here to help. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 provided funding for ECP and the [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#). The [Act also provided amendments](#) to make programs like the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program, Tree Assistance Program and Livestock Indemnity Program even more responsive.

More Information:

FSA will hold a sign-up for 2017 WHIP no later than July 16. Additional information on WHIP is available on [FSA's 2017 WHIP webpage](#). For immediate assistance under any of our other disaster programs, please contact a [local USDA service center](#) or learn more at www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

#

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Sent from my iPhone

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA

Sent: 25 Jun 2018 18:11:30 +0000

Bcc:

hart.thompson@mail.house.gov;Michael.Reed@mail.house.gov;marydee.beal@mail.house.gov;craig.anderson@mail.house.gov;alice.johnson@mail.house.gov;bud.whitmire@mail.house.gov;Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov;jack_overstreet@isakson.senate.gov;daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov;Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov;ashley.smith1@mail.house.gov

Subject: FW: NEWS RELEASES/GOVDELIVERY/MEDIA: USDA to Help Producers Prepare for Addition of Seed Cotton to Two Key Safety Net Programs

Attachments: State News Release_USDA to Help Producers Prepare for Addition of Seed Cotton to Two Key Safety Net Programs.docx, National News Release_USDA to Help Producers Prepare for Addition of Seed Cotton to Two Key Safety Net Programs.docx

Attached is the timeline released today for rollout of seed cotton base allocation and program signup.

If we can of assistance, please let me know.

Tas

Tas Smith

State Executive Director

Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA

tas.smith@ga.usda.gov

355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100

Athens, GA 30601

706-546-2266

FAX 1-855-409-5735

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Farm Service Agency
400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0506
www.fsa.usda.gov/

News Release

Contact: Wayne Maloney
(202) 720-6107

USDA to Help Producers Prepare for Addition of Seed Cotton to Two Key Safety Net Programs

Information to Help Farmers and Ranchers Select the Coverage Options that Fit Their Needs

WASHINGTON, June 25, 2018 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sending acreage history and yield reports to agricultural producers with generic base acres covered by the [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\) programs](#). This information will help producers decide the best options for how to allocate generic base acres, given the addition of seed cotton as a covered commodity in the programs.

“We’re sending this information to make sure farmers and ranchers have the data they need to make critical decisions about these USDA programs,” said Richard Fordyce, administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “It’s important that producers take a few minutes to compare the information they receive with their farm records. If something is incorrect, we encourage them to contact their local USDA office.”

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 amended the 2014 Farm Bill, adding seed cotton as a covered commodity under the ARC and PLC programs. This week, FSA will start sending producers information on current generic base acres, yields and 2008-2012 planting history.

Per the Act, FSA is using the period 2009 through 2012 to compute the conversion of generic base acres to seed cotton base acres. In contrast, the 2008 through 2012 period is used to calculate yield updates to seed cotton. The updates are an important part of preparing agricultural producers to make decisions on allocating generic basic acres and updating yields for seed cotton.

This summer, producers will have an opportunity to allocate their generic base acres and update their seed cotton yield.

All producers electing to participate in either the ARC or PLC program will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election, choosing between ARC and PLC for the 2018 crop year for seed cotton only. Producers who elected ARC with the individual farm option will continue with that option since that election is applicable to all base acres on the farm. The final step to participate requires producers with farms with seed cotton base acres to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for 2018 this summer.

The anticipated timeline is:

2019-FPAC-BC-06023-F

- June 29: Producers are mailed letters notifying them of current generic base acres and yields and 2008 to 2012 planting history.
- July: An online decision tool for ARC and PLC becomes available. Producers have opportunity to update yields and allocate generic base acres for ARC and PLC.
- Late July: ARC and PLC one-time elections occur for seed cotton.
- Late July: ARC and PLC sign-up for 2018 starts for farms with seed cotton base acres.

“For all farmers and ranchers with questions, we encourage you to reach out to your local FSA office,” Fordyce said.

FSA will provide updates as dates solidify. For more information, visit [FSA’s ARC and PLC webpage](#) or contact your [local USDA service center](#).

#

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 17 Jul 2018 12:02:27 +0000
To: Perkins, Chris (Perdue)
Subject: RE: Senator Perdue contact 7/13/18

This is very helpful....thank you Chris. So great to meet you as well.

If there is anything you need from Georgia FSA, please let me know.

Thanks again.

Tas

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

From: Perkins, Chris (Perdue) [mailto:Chris_Perkins@perdue.senate.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 6:33 PM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Senator Perdue contact 7/13/18

Tas,

It was good seeing you again at the UGA Griffin event on Friday with Secretary & Senator Perdue. I have attached a link to a map that shows where all the field reps serve and their contact information. Let me know if you are ever in my area or have USDA events that our office should attend. Feel free to contact us if you or USDA ever needs anything from the Senator's office in the future.

<https://www.perdue.senate.gov/connect/serving-you>

Sincerely,

Chris Perkins
Field Representative

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR DAVID PERDUE
3280 Peachtree St NE | Suite 2640 | Atlanta, GA 30305
Office: 404-865-0087 Cell: (b) (6)

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 3 Jun 2019 23:16:18 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: ICYMI - Senator David Perdue: Disaster Relief, What Can Be Done Better Next Time

“Finally, the U.S. Senate and House are sending a bipartisan disaster relief package to President Trump’s desk. This is a huge win for Americans who were devastated by floods, wildfires, and historic hurricanes across 12 states, Puerto Rico, and the Mariana Islands. However, the fact that it took 237 days for Congress to pass a disaster relief bill after Hurricane Michael is beyond embarrassing. Going forward, Congress must leave politics out of disaster relief and move swiftly to provide assistance in a timely manner. When disaster strikes, time is of the essence, and the American people need to know we have their backs.” – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA)

In case you missed it...



Disaster Relief: What Can Be Done Better Next Time

By U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA)

June 3, 2019

<https://bit.ly/2Wc3f8z>

June 1 marked the beginning of hurricane season, and as we prepare to face this year’s inevitable natural disasters, many Americans are still waiting to receive federal aid to recover from last season’s devastation.

Disaster relief historically has never been a partisan issue. Unfortunately, it turned into one over the last eight months.

Despite Democrats pushing for poison pill proposals, President Trump was able to break through the gridlock, and the House and Senate found consensus on a bipartisan disaster relief package on May 23.

The Senate passed this compromise relief bill the very same day. Now, this week, the U.S. House of Representatives will send it to the President’s desk.

This package contains \$19.1 billion of disaster relief, including \$605 million for Puerto Rico’s Nutrition Assistance Program, \$300 million for additional Community Development Block

Grants for Puerto Rico, \$3.2 billion to rebuild military bases like Tyndall Air Force Base and Camp Lejeune, \$3.3 billion for flood damage repair, and \$3 billion for agriculture losses. Additionally, California will be eligible to receive more than \$8 billion in assistance for wildfire recovery.

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, deserve credit for their diligent work in shepherding this process.

However, the fact that it took 237 days for Congress to pass a disaster relief bill after Hurricane Michael is beyond embarrassing. Self-interested politicians have made a mockery of one of their primary responsibilities.

Other disaster aid bills were not held up like this. Within ten days of Hurricane Katrina, Congress passed supplemental disaster relief funding. After Hurricane Harvey, it took 15 days. Even after Hurricane Sandy, which sparked substantial debate, Congress passed a supplemental funding bill 74 days later.

Most of delay was caused by partisan demands from Democrats for additional aid for Puerto Rico following 2017 hurricanes – even though the island is already eligible to receive \$91 billion to recover from these storms. That’s three times more funding than Texas was eligible to receive for Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and nearly double what was appropriated for Hurricane Sandy in 2013.

President Trump agreed to support additional aid for Puerto Rico in order to pass a disaster relief bill as soon as possible. However, Democrats and Republicans could not find consensus on the level of funding. There was also a disagreement over border humanitarian funds.

After Senators Shelby and Leahy finally came to an agreement with the House on May 23, Senator Shelby and I called the President. The President agreed to break the logjam by supporting a clean disaster relief bill.

Within hours of Trump’s decision, the compromise bill passed the Senate 85-8. The House could have passed the bill by unanimous consent the very next day. Instead, it was blocked by three Republicans in a pathetic attempt to grandstand and get their names in national headlines.

The last eight months have been the height of partisan politics. Never again should we allow the American people to fall prey to Washington’s intransigence.

There are three actions Congress should take right now to ensure that the federal government can indeed take care of its people in times of crisis:

Establish a reserve fund. Most families and businesses set aside contingency funds in case of emergency, and Congress should do the same. We should expand eligibility criteria for natural

disasters in Congress' existing relief fund, so we're prepared when disaster strikes and don't have to rely on supplemental appropriations bills.

Cut red tape. Federal agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing & Urban Development are responsible for disbursing disaster relief funds after it's allocated by Congress. Each agency has to go through an arduous rulemaking process before any funds can be released. This can often take months. We need to streamline the process so communities get relief in a timely manner, while providing sufficient oversight.

Fix the funding process. Our national debt topped \$22 trillion this year. That's a full-blown crisis. Because of Washington's inability to get its financial house in order, we are losing the ability to do the right thing. Every dime of this relief package is borrowed money. We need to tackle this debt crisis and responsibly fund the federal government on time so we can help the American people when they are counting on us most.

It's time for both sides of the aisle to come together, learn from the past, and prove to the American people that we have their backs.

United States Senator David Perdue is the junior senator from Georgia and a former Fortune 500 CEO. He serves on the Armed Services, Budget, Agriculture, and Banking Committees.

###

Casey Black

@SenDavidPerdue

Desk: 202-224-1324

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 30 Nov 2018 18:34:30 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Isakson Request Disaster Aid For Georgia Farmers



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 November 30, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senators Perdue, Isakson Request Disaster Aid For Georgia Farmers

Seek additional resources, reforms for Georgia agriculture as state recovers from Hurricane Michael

ATLANTA, GA – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) sent a letter to Senate appropriators requesting disaster assistance for Georgia’s agriculture industry as a result of Hurricane Michael.

“Hurricane Michael caused extensive damage to Georgia and across the Southeast,” **said the senators.** “Georgia’s agricultural industry alone suffered more than \$2.5 billion in losses. Late-season crop losses are especially devastating with the producer having already invested the vast majority of production costs into the crop. Additionally, the losses extend beyond crop damage to include buildings, equipment, irrigation pivots and other infrastructure.”

“Due to the severity and timing of the losses, additional assistance is needed to allow producers to recover a portion of expenses associated with the 2018 crop and secure production financing for the 2019 crop,” **continued the senators.**

The senators’ letter outlines critical changes that need to be made to the current disaster loss program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Additionally, it urges the inclusion of a Pecan and Specialty Crop State Block Grant Program. This would give the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture the authority to provide assistance in the form of block grants to eligible states and may include compensation to producers for expenses such as forest restoration, vegetable plant preparation, and reimbursement for losses of pecan production expected before tree maturity.

In October, Senators Perdue and Isakson joined Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in Bainbridge, Moultrie, and Albany, Georgia, to [visit farmers and producers](#) who were devastated by Hurricane Michael.

###

From: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue)
Sent: 30 Nov 2017 23:27:43 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Automatic reply: Meeting Request

I will be out of the office til Monday, December 4, with almost no access to my emails. If you need immedidate help, please contact Senator Perdue's Executive Assitant Stephanie Lightfoot at stephanie_lightfoot@perdue.senate.gov.
Thank you for your email.

Gabriele

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 16 Oct 2018 21:40:10 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Isakson Tour Hurricane Michael Devastation With Vice President Pence



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senators Perdue, Isakson Tour Hurricane Michael Devastation With Vice President Pence

Senators Thank President Trump For Visiting Georgia

ALBANY, GA – Following President Donald Trump’s visit to Middle Georgia yesterday, U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) joined Vice President Mike Pence and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue in Bainbridge, Moultrie, and Albany, Georgia to visit farmers and producers who have been devastated by Hurricane Michael. They were also joined by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and other state and local officials.

Click [here](#) or on image below to download pictures.



“It was an honor to have both President Trump and Vice President Pence in Georgia this week as we assess Hurricane Michael’s impact on our state,” **said Senator David Perdue.** “Today, we joined Vice President Pence and Secretary Perdue in South Georgia, where we met with farmers and producers who have suffered significant crop losses in the aftermath of the storm. There’s a long road ahead, but it’s encouraging to see Georgians come together during this challenging time. Thanks to President Trump, Vice President Pence, our first responders, and local and state authorities for their support as we work to get our communities up and running again.”

“Georgia took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael and is in the beginning phases of recovery. I’m thankful for President Trump, who came down to Georgia yesterday with other administration officials to see firsthand the devastating situation on the ground. Traveling today with Vice President Mike Pence, Second Lady Karen Pence and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, we had a chance to talk with our farmers and survey some of the worst-hit areas of southwest Georgia,” **said Senator Johnny Isakson.** “Lives and livelihoods have been shattered, and our agriculture community took a particularly big hit. I thank President Trump, Vice President Pence and Secretary Perdue and Governor Deal for their commitment to working together to ensure Georgians have the resources they need to fully recover and make right what was lost to natural disaster.”

“People have no idea how hard Hurricane Michael has hit the great state of Georgia. We are working very hard on every area and every state that was hit - we are with you,” **said President Donald Trump.** “The people are incredible in Florida and in Georgia...I want to thank FEMA, first responders, and law enforcement – everyone has been so incredible.”

“I know that we will get through this challenging time,” **said Vice President Mike Pence.** “We will rebuild these crops and these communities. We will restore southwest Georgia, we will restore the Sunbelt region bigger and better than ever before. The best days for Georgia, the best days for American agriculture, and the best days for America, are yet to come.”

“The Trump Administration is making a reputation for being more connected to state and local partners than any other administration I can ever remember,” **said Secretary Sonny Perdue.**

“Commissioner Gary Black, Governor Deal, and I have experienced this all the way from local community leaders to state legislators and governors. The people you've appointed in your office are reaching out and making people feel like we have truly one government. It's wonderful to be a part of that.”

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 11 Dec 2018 22:42:03 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: 2018 Farm Bill Passes Senate, One Step Closer To President Trump's Desk



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 December 11, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

2018 Farm Bill Passes Senate, One Step Closer To President Trump's Desk *Senator Perdue Gets Results For Georgia Farmers*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, secured numerous provisions important to Georgia in the final negotiations of the 2018 Farm Bill.

“Getting a good Farm Bill across the finish line is critical for rural communities in Georgia and around the country,” **said Senator Perdue**. “This bill ensures America’s agriculture industry will continue to be a strategic industry for years to come. It preserves programs that have helped Georgia farmers deal with low commodity prices without increasing spending levels. Growing up working on my family’s farm, I learned at an early age that agriculture is not just a business – it’s a way of life for many people across our country. This Farm Bill is an important investment in our farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and agribusinesses, as well as our national security.

“While this Farm Bill is a good start, it’s not perfect. It fails to make commonsense changes that would help put Americans receiving food assistance back to work. However, I am encouraged by the willingness of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue to deal with this issue. While I am disappointed that disaster relief funding for peach and blueberry growers was removed, I am encouraged that it will be addressed in the remaining funding bills. Ultimately, I am pleased that many Georgia priorities that were not included in the Senate bill were addressed in the final product. Balancing the needs of every commodity and region is not an easy task, and this Farm Bill will still provide much needed certainty to our farmers in Georgia and across the country.”

Senator Perdue secured the following provisions important to Georgia’s agriculture community:

- **Protects Peanut And Cotton Farmers:** Protects critical programs for Georgia's top two commodities by preserving existing safety nets.
- **Supports All Members Of Farming Operations:** Eliminates a flawed provision that would have limited certain family members from being considered "actively engaged" in the farm operation based on management. This would have hurt many Georgia family farms ineligible for farm program participation.
- **Extends Support For Textiles:** Prolongs funding to ensure American textile mills can compete globally.
- **Helps Pecan Growers Compete:** Provides for the assessment of imported pecans so that foreign producers pay the same assessment fee as U.S. pecan growers.
- **Cracks Down On SNAP Fraud:** Puts in place a verification system to prevent individuals from receiving payments in more than one state at the same time.
- **Verifies SNAP Recipients:** Initiates a pilot program to verify earned income at the time of certification and recertification.
- **Connects Georgia's National Forests:** Includes Senator Perdue's Chattahoochee Oconee Land Adjustment Act, which gives U.S. Forest Service the tools they need to create a more contiguous National Forest.
- **Encourages Self-Sufficiency:** Eliminates unnecessary subsidy on all rural development loan programs to allow programs to become self-sufficient and save U.S. Treasury approximately \$50 million per year.
- **Establishes Agriculture Scholarships:** Creates a scholarship program for students attending Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions who want to pursue a career in the agriculture industry.
- **Gives Flexibility To Land-Grant Schools:** Allows land-grant universities, like Fort Valley State, to carry over unused grant funds from year to year through the Carryover Equity Act.
- **Advances Timber Industry:** Establishes performance driven research and development programs for advancing new and innovative wood construction materials.
- **Prioritizes Turf Grass Research:** Adds Turf Grass Research to the list of high priority research at colleges and universities.
- **Strengthens Rural Cybersecurity:** Allows rural utilities to use certain electric loans and loan guarantees from U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund improvements to grid security and cybersecurity.
- **Requests Critical Data:** Establishes a report with necessary data to protect human and animal health against possible threats posed by imported dogs.
- **Supports New Farmers:** Allows Farm Service Agency, which loans to disadvantaged and new farmers, to increase its loan authority during years when the demand for FSA loans unexpectedly exceeds its cap.
- **Adds Cushions Of Credit:** Balances the needs of taxpayers and electric cooperatives by ensuring that rates continue to stay competitive. The Farm Bill gradually phases out this program to provide savings.

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 28 Jun 2018 21:57:19 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Supports Farm Bill That Includes Georgia Agriculture Priorities



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Caroline Vanvick](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue Supports Farm Bill That Includes Georgia Agriculture Priorities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, comments on Senate passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, which includes numerous key Georgia priorities:

“Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry and a major reason why our state continues to be the best state in the country in which to do business. I’ve traveled across Georgia to listen to farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture industry. One thing is clear – this Farm Bill is a jobs bill. America’s food security is economic security. This bill saves more money than the last Farm Bill, cracks down on food stamp fraud, and preserves programs that have helped Georgia farmers weather low commodity markets. Unfortunately, an important provision was eliminated that would level the playing field for American textile mills. I’m also disappointed this bill includes a provision that will impose one-size-fits-all standards on farms, which runs counter to President Trump’s work to roll back overreaching regulations. I hope these concerns will be worked out before this bill reaches the President’s desk. Getting a bipartisan bill that balances the needs of every commodity and region is not an easy task. While this Farm Bill is not perfect, it will provide certainty to farmers in Georgia and around the country.”

Prior to passage of the U.S. Senate’s 2018 Farm Bill, Senator Perdue [spoke on the floor](#) to highlight some of the provisions important to Georgia.

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Perdue was an active participant in writing the 2018 Farm Bill. Senator Perdue secured the following provisions important to Georgia’s agriculture community:

- **Protects Peanut And Cotton Farmers:** Protects critical programs for Georgia's top two commodities by preserving existing safety nets.
- **Helps Pecan Growers Compete:** Provides for the assessment of imported pecans so that foreign producers pay the same assessment fee as U.S. pecan growers.
- **Cracks Down On SNAP Fraud:** Puts in place a verification system to prevent individuals from receiving payments in more than one state at the same time.
- **Verifies SNAP Recipients:** Initiates a pilot program to verify earned income at the time of certification and recertification.
- **Connects Georgia's National Forests:** Includes Senator Perdue's Chattahoochee Oconee Land Adjustment Act, which gives the U.S. Forest Service the tools they need to create a more contiguous National Forest.
- **Encourages Self-Sufficiency:** Eliminates the unnecessary subsidy on all rural development loan programs to allow the programs to become self-sufficient and save the U.S. Treasury approximately \$50 million per year.
- **Establishes Agriculture Scholarships:** Creates a scholarship program for students attending Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions who want to pursue a career in the agriculture industry.
- **Gives Flexibility To Land-Grant Schools:** Allows land grant universities, like Fort Valley State, to carry over unused grant funds from year to year through the Carryover Equity Act.
- **Advances Timber Industry:** Establishes performance driven research and development programs for advancing new and innovative wood construction materials.
- **Prioritizes Turf Grass Research:** Adds Turf Grass Research to the list of high priority research at colleges and universities.
- **Strengthens Rural Cybersecurity:** Allows rural utilities to use certain electric loans and loan guarantees from USDA to fund improvements to grid security and cybersecurity.
- **Requests Critical Data:** Establishes a report with necessary data to protect human and animal health against possible threats posed by imported dogs.
- **Provides Relief For Peaches And Blueberries:** Makes disaster funding available to peach and blueberry growers that were affected by recent frost damage under the Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP).

- **Supports New Farmers:** Allows the Farm Service Agency, which loans to disadvantaged and new farmers, to increase its loan authority during years when the demand for FSA loans unexpectedly exceeds its cap.

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Hale, Daniel (Perdue)
Sent: 29 May 2018 21:27:08 +0000
To: White, Charles (Perdue);Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Re: SW GA Storm Report

Ha yea right I'm up here in God's country and it hasn't stopped raining for days.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "White, Charles (Perdue)" <Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov>
Date: 5/29/18 5:07 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: "Hale, Daniel (Perdue)" <Daniel_Hale@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: SW GA Storm Report

Yes sir! This rain needs to head north somewhere like Tennessee!! The attached I'd say is spot on. Praying for sunny skies ahead.

Charles White

(b) (6)

Regional Representative
Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On May 29, 2018, at 5:01 PM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Daniel and Charles,

This is a brief report I received this morning on some of the storm damage in SW GA.

Charles you may have a more accurate reading since you are on the ground.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 6 Jun 2019 18:15:51 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Disaster Aid Funding Signed Into Law By President Trump



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 6, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Disaster Aid Funding Signed Into Law By President Trump *Senators Perdue & Isakson fought for months to secure critical funding for Georgians recovering from Hurricane Michael*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) applaud President Donald J. Trump for quickly signing into law critical disaster relief funding for Georgia and other states impacted by hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other natural disasters. Senators Perdue and Isakson have fought for months to secure disaster funding for Georgia, which was devastated by Hurricane Michael in October 2018.

“Today, President Trump fulfilled his promise to help Georgia farmers and communities rebuild after Hurricane Michael’s devastation,” **said Senator Perdue**. “Finally, Americans who were ravaged by historic floods, wildfires, and hurricanes across 12 states have certainty for the immediate future. I want to thank Senator Isakson, Governor Brian Kemp, Commissioner Gary Black, and the entire Georgia delegation for their diligent work in getting this assistance across the finish line. While it should not have taken eight months to pass this disaster relief package, this will serve as a learning experience for both sides of the aisle. Disaster relief should never be a partisan issue. The American people need to know that we will have their backs in times of need.”

“I am so grateful that the disaster relief that Georgia farmers and millions of Americans have been waiting on for so long is finally coming,” **said Senator Isakson**. “I’ve spent most of this year pressing for action, and I thank President Trump and everyone who worked to see this through. I am hopeful that this aid will be expedited to reach those who need it quickly so that Georgians can get the relief they need to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.”

The \$19.1 billion disaster relief package includes \$3 billion to provide critical agriculture disaster relief for farmers recovering in the wake of Hurricane Michael, along with additional

funds for communities in Georgia and other states. The president signed the disaster relief bill today, June 6, during his trip abroad.

On May 23, Senators Perdue and Isakson secured the Senate's approval of disaster funding for Georgia, which was devastated by Hurricane Michael in October 2018. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation on June 3. The president signed the disaster relief bill today, June 6, during his trip abroad.

Background:

- In October 2018, Senators Perdue and Isakson personally [visited](#) parts of Georgia devastated by Hurricane Michael with Vice President Mike Pence and pushed for immediate federal funding. After funding was not obtained by the end of 2018, Senators Perdue and Isakson twice introduced disaster relief amendments to legislative vehicles under consideration by the Senate.
- On November 29 and 30, 2018, Senators Perdue and Isakson sent two letters requesting additional funding for disaster assistance for Georgians recovering after Hurricane Michael: the first letter to Senate [appropriators](#) and the second to Senate [leadership](#).
- On January 31, Senators Perdue and Isakson [introduced](#) a supplemental agriculture disaster relief amendment to provide critical funding for Georgia and other states recovering from recent hurricane and wildfire damage.
- On February 13, Senators Perdue and Isakson joined 11 other bipartisan senators in [sending](#) a letter to House and Senate leadership urging immediate action on a supplemental disaster relief package.
- On February 26, Senators Perdue and Isakson led Senators Doug Jones (D-AL), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), Tim Scott (R-SC), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) in introducing a \$13.6 billion [disaster relief package](#) with the backing of President Trump after prior funding attempts were removed from other supplemental spending packages.
- On April 1, the Senate took votes on two amendments that would have provided funding for Georgia and other disasters, and both pieces of legislation failed to receive the necessary 60 votes to move forward.
- On April 30, Senators Perdue and Isakson led a [press conference](#) with Senators Doug Jones (D-AL), Rick Scott (R-FL), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) to continue their push for disaster aid funding and call on action by Congress.
- On May 8, Senators Perdue and Isakson sent a letter along with Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), John Cornyn (R-TX), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Rick Scott (R-FL), Richard Burr (R-NC), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Ted Cruz (R-TX), [requesting the swift release of HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program funds](#) to aid Georgia and other states.
- On May 14, [\\$34.88 million in funding was announced](#) for Georgia infrastructure recovery by the HUD's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, which was previously appropriated by Congress to respond to the 2018 natural disasters.

###

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 7 Jan 2019 23:13:22 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Announces Committee Assignments For 116th Congress



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator David Perdue Announces Committee Assignments For 116th Congress

*Perdue To Continue Serving On Armed Services, Banking,
Budget, Agriculture Committees*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) announces he will continue serving on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees in the 116th Congress. Senator Perdue’s role on these influential committees puts him at the intersection of solving our national debt and global security crises.

On the Armed Services Committee, Senator Perdue fully supports our national defense priorities:

“The women and men who serve in uniform represent the very best of America. It is our responsibility to make sure our troops have the tools they need to defend our nation against evolving threats. In order to rebuild our military after years of disinvestment, we must continue to modernize our capabilities, improve readiness, and increase accountability at the Department of Defense.”

- Required Department of Defense to [complete a full audit](#) for the first time in history
- Supported [Army Cyber Center of Excellence](#) at Fort Gordon and [Advanced Battle Management System](#) at Robins Air Force Base
- Hosted [Strategic Military Advisory Group meetings](#) with leaders from each of Georgia’s military communities

On the Banking Committee, Senator Perdue is working to improve our financial system:

“Overregulation has sucked the very life out of our free-enterprise system. By rolling back confusing and often contradictory regulations, and undoing the most onerous parts of Dodd-Frank, we’ve begun freeing up trapped capital and started to put it to work in our economy. These efforts are making banks work for average Americans and generating much-needed economic growth to help solve our national debt crisis.”

- Led bipartisan rollback of [Dodd-Frank regulations](#)
- Protected [consumers’ personal information](#) gathered by the CFPB

On the Budget Committee, Senator Perdue is fighting to fix Washington’s broken funding process:

“Washington is locked in a cycle of continuing resolutions and last-minute spending deals. This is totally irresponsible. We need a politically-neutral platform to fund the government on time, every year. Fixing the funding process alone will not solve our debt crisis, but we won’t solve this debt crisis until we fix our broken funding process.”

- Offered solutions to change Congress’s funding process in [Joint Select Committee for Budget and Appropriations Process Reform](#)
- Wrote “[Outsider’s Guide to the Federal Budget](#)” outlining ideas to fix the budget process

On the Agriculture Committee, Senator Perdue is a strong voice for Georgia’s farmers:

“Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry and a major reason why our state continues to be the best state in the country in which to do business. Growing up working on my family’s farm, I learned at an early age that agriculture is not just a business – it’s a way of life. To keep thriving, our farm families need more certainty from Washington and fewer rules and regulations.”

- Secured [provisions](#) important to Georgia’s agriculture community in the 2018 Farm Bill
- Traveled across Georgia to [visit farmers, foresters, and researchers](#) with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue
- Held [listening sessions](#) to hear directly from farmers and the agriculture community

###

From: White, Charles (Perdue)
Sent: 11 Jul 2019 17:58:51 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Cc: Johnson, Alice; Redding, Jody (Isakson)
Subject: Re: Reduced Office Hours - Cook County Notification
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png, image007.png, image008.jpg

Thanks Tas!

Charles White

(b) (6)

Regional Representative
Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On Jul 11, 2019, at 1:17 PM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <tas.smith@usda.gov> wrote:

FYI:

If you have any questions let me know.

Thank you.

Tas

From: Westmoreland, Dianne - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2019 1:07 PM
To: Hall, Darby - FSA, Nashville, GA <darby.hall@usda.gov>
Cc: Scruggs, Chad - FSA, Blackshear, GA <chad.scruggs@usda.gov>; Mansfield, Kyle - FSA, Athens, GA <kyle.mansfield@usda.gov>; Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <tas.smith@usda.gov>
Subject: Reduced Office Hours - Cook County Notification

Darby,

Attached is a news release that needs to be posted in the Cook County FSA Office. I am working with the National Office to print and mail postcards to the Cook County producers.

If you change the attached copy, please email me a copy for my file.

Thanks

Dianne R. Westmoreland
Administrative Officer
Georgia State FSA Office
355 E Hancock Ave STOP 101

Athens, Georgia 30601-2775
 Phone: (706) 546-2269 Ext. 2
 Cell: (b) (6)
 Fax: 1-855-409-5740

"Teamwork, commitment, and great attitudes make all the difference!"

Stay Connected with USDA:

[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#) [<image003.png>](#) [<image004.png>](#) [<image005.png>](#) [<image006.png>](#) [<image007.png>](#) [<image008.jpg>](#)

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<News Release Cook County New Office Operation.doc>



From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 21 Aug 2018 12:48:46 +0000
To: daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov; White, Charles (Perdue)
Subject: UGA-FSA Grower Meetings
Attachments: UGA-FSA Meetings Sept 2018.docx

Daniel and Charles,

Hope you are doing well.

Wanted to make sure you had the attached information regarding the UGA-FSA grower meetings on the new programs FSA is implementing on disaster, Seed Cotton, and tariffs. Please feel free to distribute as you see fit.

We will have an official flyer available next week. Hope you can join us.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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Monday, September 10, 2018

Bainbridge

9:30-11am
1300 E. River Road, Bainbridge, GA 39817
229-248-3033

Perry

2:45-4:15pm
801 Main Street, Perry, GA 31069
478-987-2028

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Statesboro

9:30-11am
151 Langston Chapel Road, Statesboro, GA 30458
912-871-6130

Tifton

3:00-4:30pm
15 RDC Road, Tifton, GA 31794
229-386-3416

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Cartersville

9:30-11am
Stiles Auditorium - 320 West Cherokee Avenue, Cartersville, GA 30120
770-387-5142

Watkinsville

3:00-4:30pm
Jay Phil Campbell Building, 1420 Experiment Station Road & Government Station Road,
Watkinsville, GA 30677
7036-769-3946

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 30 Aug 2018 13:05:49 +0000
To: White, Charles (Perdue)
Cc: Redding, Jody (Isakson); Martin, Brett - FSA, Athens, GA; Clark, Jackie - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: RE: Bee Farmers

Sounds great Charles....just call my direct line (b) (6)

So glad the season is starting back!

From: White, Charles (Perdue) <Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: Redding, Jody (Isakson) <Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov>; Martin, Brett - FSA, Athens, GA <Brett.Martin@ga.usda.gov>; Clark, Jackie - FSA, Athens, GA <Jackie.Clark@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Bee Farmers

Friday @ 9 is perfect!

If this is ok with you Tas I can call Jody and then the two of us will get on three way with you. Just let me know what the best number to reach you at will be. Thanks Tas

Go Dawgs!!

Charles White
 (b) (6)
 Regional Representative
 Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On Aug 29, 2018, at 2:57 PM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Could Friday at 9:00 a.m. possibly work for a call instead of tomorrow?

Let me know if not we will get something worked out.

Tas

From: "White, Charles (Perdue)" <Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov>
Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 2:13:34 PM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: "Redding, Jody (Isakson)" <Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov>
Subject: Bee Farmers

Hey Tas,

Can Jody and I give you a call in the morning around 9 to talk about a few things regarding our bee folks down this way?

whip and indemnity payments

Just let us know.

Charles White

(b) (6)

Regional Representative

Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 28 Aug 2018 12:45:17 +0000
Bcc: rlredding@reddingfirm.com; don@gapeanuts.com; richey@georgiacotton.org; taylor@georgiacotton.org; Michael.Reed@mail.house.gov; marydee.beal@mail.house.gov; craig.anderson@mail.house.gov; Alice.Johnson@mail.house.gov; Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov; daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov; zellie.duvall@mail.house.gov; ashley.smith1@mail.house.gov
Subject: Market Facilitation Program Announcement

Linked below is Secretary Perdue's Market Facilitation Program announcement.

If you have questions, please let us know.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/08/27/usda-announces-details-assistance-farmers-impacted-unjustified>

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 20 Sep 2018 20:19:46 +0000
To: tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
Subject: Senator Perdue w/ Colquitt Co. Farm Bureau

Hey Tas,

Just want to let you know that Senator Perdue will be meeting with the Colquitt County Farm Bureau tomorrow in Moultrie. Not sure if you'll be in the area, but we'd be glad to have you!

Casey Black
 @SenDavidPerdue
 Desk: 202-224-1324
 Cell: (b) (6)



FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
 September 20, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

MEDIA ADVISORY: **Senator David Perdue To Visit Southwest Georgia**

ATLANTA, GA – On Friday, September 21, U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) will visit Thomasville and Moultrie to hear from local leaders in the agriculture industry and discuss the growing economy. Following the events, Senator Perdue will hold media availabilities.

Senator Perdue Meets With Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce

WHAT: Senator Perdue will address the Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and hold a media availability.

WHEN: Friday, September 21, 8:00 a.m. ET

WHERE: Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce
 401 S. Broad St.
 Thomasville, GA 31792

Senator Perdue Meets With Colquitt County Farm Bureau

WHAT: Senator Perdue will address the Colquitt County Farm Bureau and hold a media

availability.

WHEN: Friday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. ET

WHERE: Colquitt County Farm Bureau
1899 Sylvester Hwy
Moultrie, GA 31768

****Media interested in attending must RSVP to casey_black@perdue.senate.gov by 6:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, September 20.***

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 14 May 2018 12:02:58 +0000
To: daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: FW: Secretarial Designations S4314 and S4321 - GA - Drought Fast-Tracks
Attachments: 8442763_GA_Signed Copy.pdf, 8442763_S4321_FT_GA.PDF, 8440315_S4314_FT_GA.PDF, 8440315 GA SignedCopy.pdf

Daniel,

Hope you are doing well.

Please see attached drought declarations for Georgia.

If you need anything further let me know..

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 10 2018

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor
State of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating five Georgia counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of: 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and a contiguous state are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

Other counties in Georgia may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Georgia and a Contiguous State

Primary Counties:**Georgia (5)**

Atkinson

Clinch

Coffee

Jeff Davis

Ware

Contiguous Counties:**Georgia (14)**

Appling

Charlton

Pierce

Bacon

Echols

Telfair

Ben Hill

Irwin

Toombs

Berrien

Lanier

Wheeler

Brantley

Montgomery

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in an adjacent state are named as contiguous disaster areas. That state, counties, and numbers are:

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:**Florida (2)**

Baker

Columbia



Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

Farm Programs

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0517
Washington, DC
20250-0517

Voice: 202-720-5172
Fax: 202-720-3646

May 11, 2018

TO: State Executive Director(s)
Georgia Florida

FROM: Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division (PECD)

SUBJECT: Secretarial Disaster Designation S4321

Please carefully review the following information concerning the subject disaster designation:

Secretarial Designation Number: S4321

Approval date by the Secretary: 05/10/2018

Termination Date - EM loan applications: 01/10/2019

Beginning date – Incident period: 03/13/2018
(For determining EM loan security values)

Crop Year(s) Affected: 2018

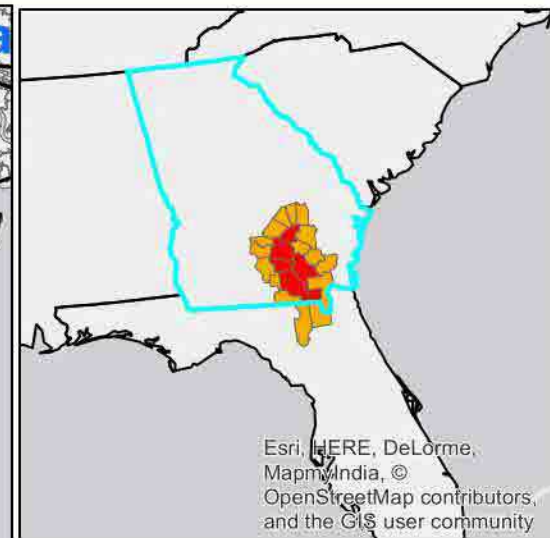
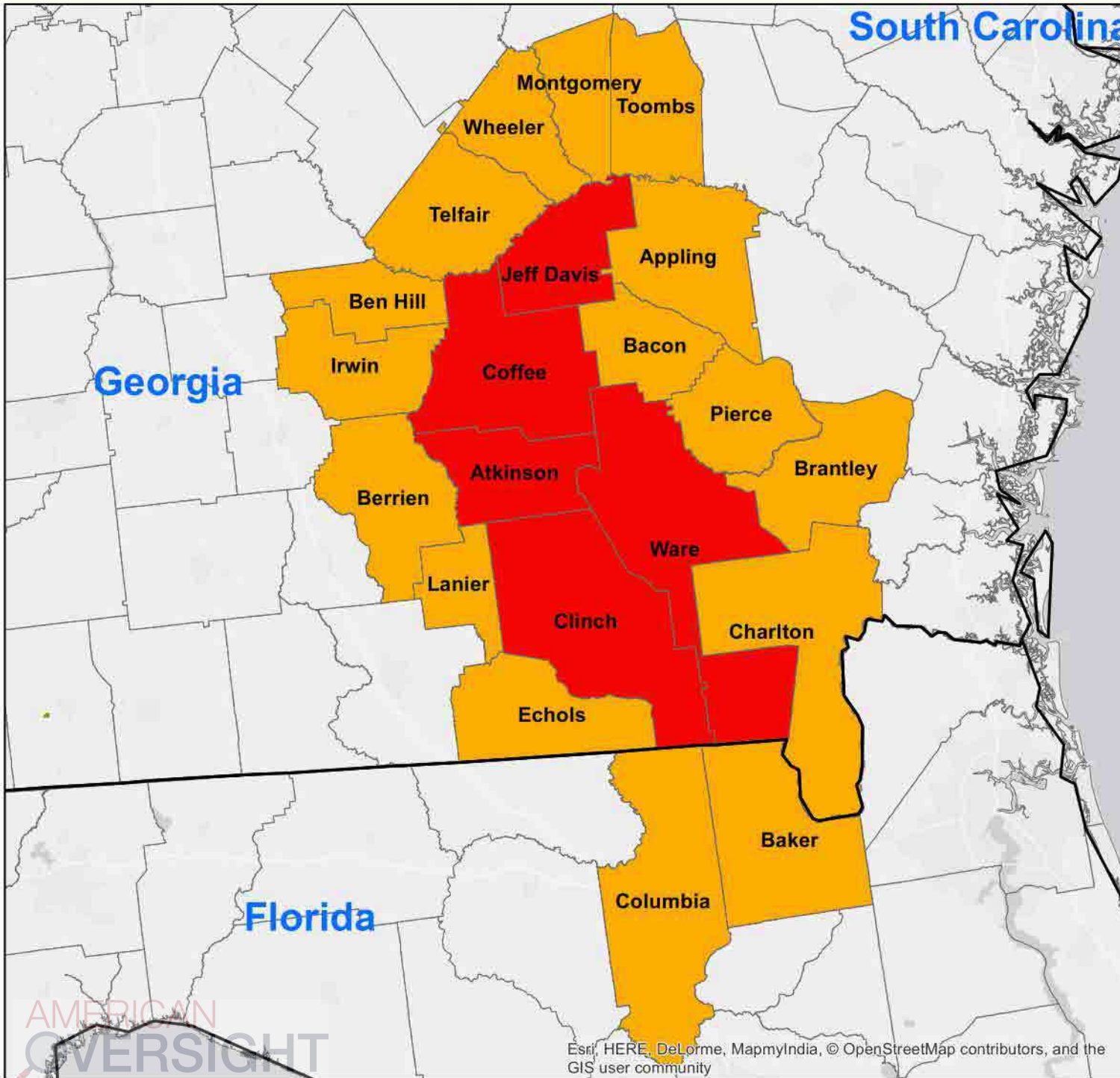
Disaster description: Drought (Fast Track)

[Complete List of Primary Counties, Contiguous Counties, and Adjacent States, are in the attached ADDENDUM]

Please proceed to take the appropriate actions required by 7 CFR 759.

EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2019

FILING INSTRUCTIONS
Farm Loan Programs



Designations

-  State Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  County Boundary
-  Primary Counties: 5
-  Contiguous Counties: 16



List of Primary and Contiguous Counties					
St/Co FIPS Code	Primary	STATE	St/Co FIPS Code	Contiguous	STATE
13003	Atkinson	Georgia	12003	Baker	Florida
13065	Clinch	Georgia	12023	Columbia	Florida
13069	Coffee	Georgia	13001	Appling	Georgia
13161	Jeff Davis	Georgia	13005	Bacon	Georgia
13299	Ware	Georgia	13017	Ben Hill	Georgia
			13019	Berrien	Georgia
			13025	Brantley	Georgia
			13049	Charlton	Georgia
			13101	Echols	Georgia
			13155	Irwin	Georgia
			13173	Lanier	Georgia
			13209	Montgomery	Georgia
			13229	Pierce	Georgia
			13271	Telfair	Georgia
			13279	Toombs	Georgia
			13309	Wheeler	Georgia

SECRETARIAL DESIGNATION REQUEST

Primary State: Georgia

5 primary county(ies)

REPORT DATE: Thursday May 3, 2018

State	Primary	Contiguous	TOTAL
Florida	-	2	2
Georgia	5	14	19
TOTALS	5	16	21
TOTAL No. of States	1	2	2



Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

Farm Programs

1400 Independence
Ave, SW
Stop 0517
Washington, DC
20250-0517

Voice: 202-720-5172
Fax: 202-720-3646

May 11, 2018

TO: State Executive Director(s)

Georgia

FROM: Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division (PECD)

SUBJECT: Secretarial Disaster Designation S4314

Please carefully review the following information concerning the subject disaster designation:

Secretarial Designation Number: S4314

Approval date by the Secretary: 05/03/2018

Termination Date - EM loan applications: 01/03/2019

Beginning date – Incident period: 03/06/2018
(For determining EM loan security values)

Crop Year(s) Affected: 2018

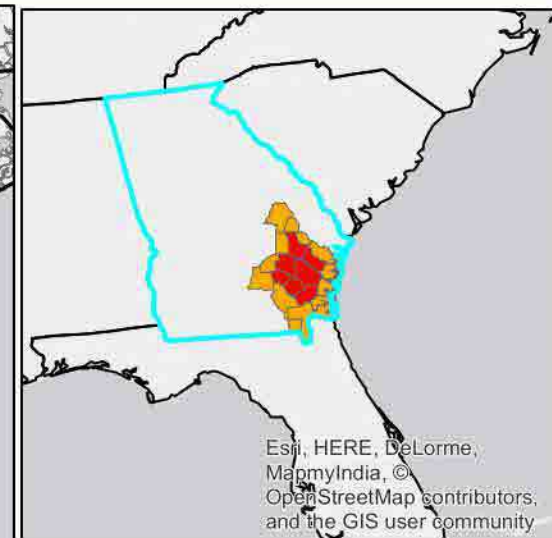
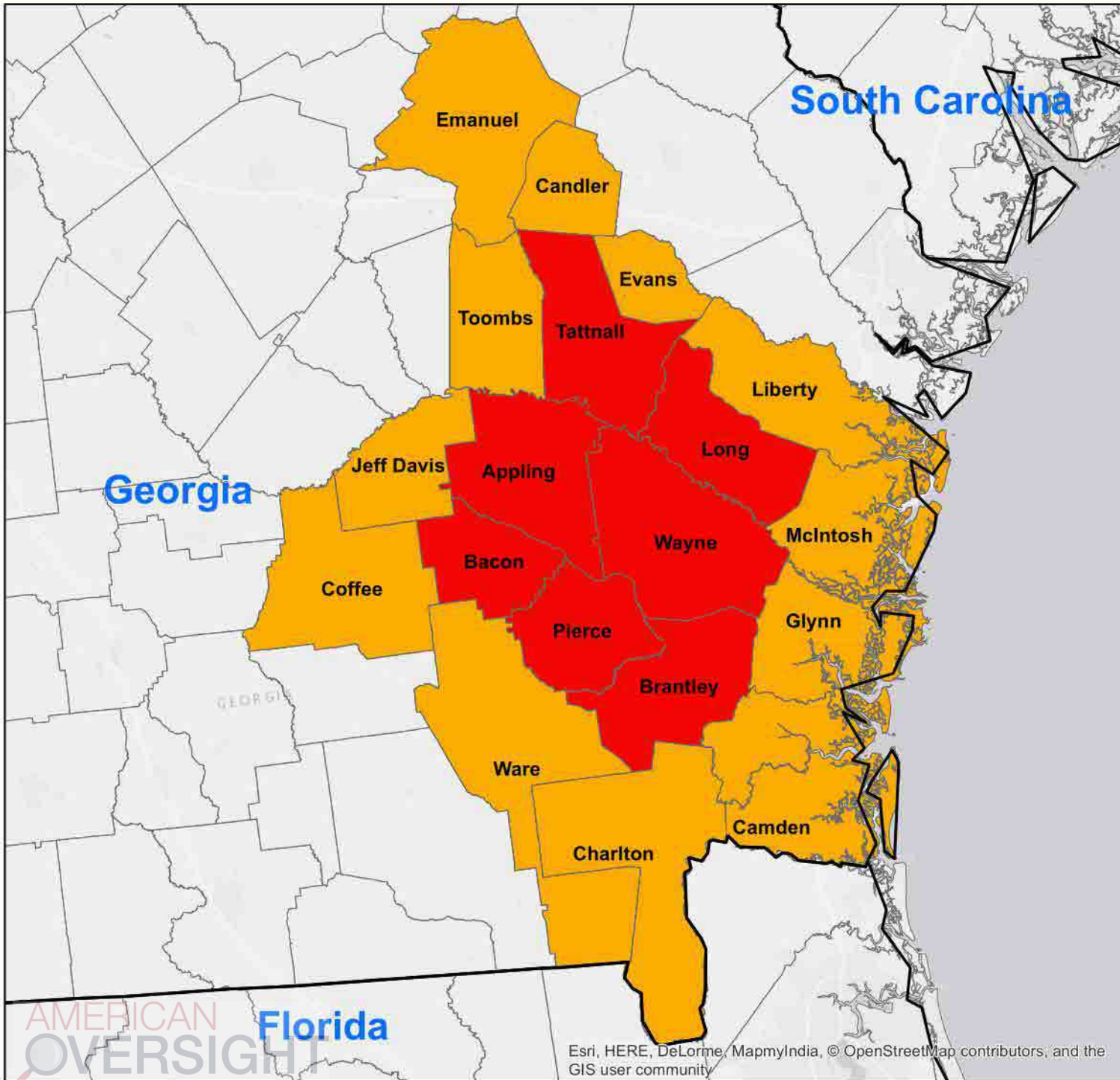
Disaster description: Drought (Fast Track)

[Complete List of Primary Counties, Contiguous Counties, and Adjacent States, are in the attached ADDENDUM]

Please proceed to take the appropriate actions required by 7 CFR 759.

EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2019

FILING INSTRUCTIONS
Farm Loan Programs



Designations

- State Boundary
- Tribal Lands
- County Boundary
- Primary Counties: 7
- Contiguous Counties: 12



List of Primary and Contiguous Counties					
St/Co FIPS Code	Primary	STATE	St/Co FIPS Code	Contiguous	STATE
13001	Appling	Georgia	13039	Camden	Georgia
13005	Bacon	Georgia	13043	Candler	Georgia
13025	Brantley	Georgia	13049	Charlton	Georgia
13183	Long	Georgia	13069	Coffee	Georgia
13229	Pierce	Georgia	13107	Emanuel	Georgia
13267	Tattnall	Georgia	13109	Evans	Georgia
13305	Wayne	Georgia	13127	Glynn	Georgia
			13161	Jeff Davis	Georgia
			13179	Liberty	Georgia
			13191	McIntosh	Georgia
			13279	Toombs	Georgia
			13299	Ware	Georgia

SECRETARIAL DESIGNATION REQUEST

Primary State: Georgia 7 primary county(ies)

REPORT DATE: Thursday April 26, 2018

State	Primary	Contiguous	TOTAL
Georgia	7	12	19
TOTALS	7	12	19
TOTAL No. of States	1	1	1



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 3 2018

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor
State of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating seven Georgia counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sonny Perdue", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for GeorgiaPrimary Counties:

Georgia
Appling
Bacon

(7)
Brantley
Long

Pierce
Tattnall

Wayne

Contiguous Counties:

Georgia
Camden
Candler
Charlton

(12)
Coffee
Emanuel
Evans

Glynn
Jeff Davis
Liberty

McIntosh
Toombs
Ware

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 16 May 2019 13:01:33 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Isakson Congratulate American Peanut Shellers Association On 100th Anniversary



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senators Perdue, Isakson Congratulate American Peanut Shellers Association On 100th Anniversary

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) applauded Senate passage of a resolution they introduced recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Peanut Shellers Association, which is headquartered in Albany, Georgia.

“As the number one peanut-producing state, Georgia is responsible for nearly half of all peanut production in the United States,” **said Senator Perdue**. “For more than 100 years, the American Peanut Shellers Association has worked to advocate for peanut farmers and promote the peanut industry across the country and around the world. Senator Isakson and I are proud to recognize this organization and thank all of Georgia’s farmers and producers for feeding the world.”

“I’m proud to congratulate the Peanut Shellers Association on 100 years of leadership in the industry and thank them for their work in Georgia to aid the industry and help share our quality peanuts with the world,” **said Senator Isakson**. “As my staff knows well, you can’t travel with me across South Georgia without stopping by the side of the road for some boiled peanuts.”

The Senate resolution recognizes the American Peanut Shellers Association for its effective leadership in the peanut industry and praises the work of the peanut industry in Georgia and across the country.

Read the full text of the resolution [here](#).

###

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 25 Jan 2019 13:35:40 +0000
Bcc: jaharvey@gfb.org;jjstone@gfb.org;don@gapeanuts.com;(b) (6)@gmail.com;(b) (6)@yahoo.com;(b) (6)@gmail.com;Kevin.Cobb@qnbtrust.bank;bo@vidaliasfinest.com;rlredding@reddingfirm.com;richey@georgiacotton.org;taylor@georgiacotton.org;lpj4h@uga.edu;wbentley@ga-agribusiness.org;samantha@georgiapecan.org;andres@gfagrow.org;GWB@agr.georgia.gov;caesdean@uga.edu;caesext@uga.edu;chall@asginfo.net;chris@GGIA.ORG;cwilliams@gfc.state.ga.us;david@southern-southeastern.org;donshur@uga.edu;Zellie.Duvall@mail.house.gov;JEvans@AgGeorgia.com;jonesc02@fvsu.edu;donald.warren@agr.georgia.gov;(b) (6)@gmail.com;Tyler.Harper@senate.ga.gov;Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov;(b) (6)@gmail.com;mackiv@uga.edu;jusry@cagagroup.com;(b) (6)@bellsouth.net;jody_redding@isakson.senate.gov;Alice.Johnson@mail.house.gov;joycrosby@gapeanuts.com;Kenneth.Cutts@mail.house.gov;bucky.kennedy@southcrop.org;latimorm@fvsu.edu;terrance.rudolph@ga.nrcs.gov;michael.bryant@mail.house.gov;michael.reed@mail.house.gov;mmccnn@uga.edu;Mclendon, Martin - NRCS, Morgan, GA;Paul.Fryer@mail.house.gov;adam.rabinowitz@uga.edu;katie@gacd.us;(b) (6)@earthlink.net;thomas@gdaonline.com;troy.windham@mail.house.gov;CCottle@aggeorgia.com;Greg_Ziesenhene@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: Fwd: Deadline Extension Policy for Multiple FSA Farm Programs Due to Temporary Closure Resulting from Lapse in Federal Funding

Please see the extension in reporting and program deadlines due to the shutdown.

Thank you.

Tas

From: "USDA Farm Service Agency" <usdafsa@service.govdelivery.com>
Date: Friday, January 25, 2019 at 6:31:00 AM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Deadline Extension Policy for Multiple FSA Farm Programs Due to Temporary Closure Resulting from Lapse in Federal Funding

[Deadline Extension Policy for Multiple FSA Farm Programs Due to Temporary Closure Resulting from Lapse in Federal Funding](#)

01/24/2019 01:00 AM EST

CM-807, Deadline Extension Policy for Multiple FSA Farm Programs Due to Temporary Closure Resulting from Lapse in Federal Funding(FOR State and County Offices) DATE POSTED: 2019-01-24 DATE EFFECTIVE: 2019-01-24

STATUS: CURRENT

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From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 13 Feb 2019 19:29:13 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Isakson, Perdue Urge Senate, House Leaders to Immediately Fund Agriculture Disaster Relief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 February 13, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Isakson, Perdue Urge Senate, House Leaders to Immediately Fund Agriculture Disaster Relief

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and David Perdue (R-GA) today wrote to House and Senate leadership urging immediate action on a supplemental disaster relief package to provide critical aid for victims of natural disasters in Georgia and across the country. Supplemental disaster funding was overwhelmingly supported by 98 U.S. senators, including Isakson and Perdue, in funding proposals voted on earlier this year, but this week’s initial agreement to fund the government past February 15 does not include this crucial funding.

In a letter to Congressional leaders, Isakson and Perdue joined with a bipartisan group of senators representing states recovering from recent hurricane and wildfire damage to urge an immediate vote on disaster recovery funding for states working to rebuild, writing, “**...we insist you bring a disaster supplemental bill to the floor for consideration at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the federal government fulfills its responsibility.**”

The letter also expresses concerns that, if a supplemental disaster relief package is not passed by Congress, “**state and local governments will not have the necessary resources needed to address critical issues, including defense capabilities, agriculture, infrastructure and economic development that are crucial to our constituents and businesses in hard hit areas.**”

In their effort to ensure Georgia farmers and others recovering in the wake of Hurricane Michael receive much-needed federal aid, Isakson and Perdue have twice introduced a \$3 billion agriculture disaster relief [amendment](#) to bills under consideration before the Senate in the 116th Congress.

Perdue and Isakson plan to continue raising this issue in the Senate until Congress approves disaster funding.

Today's letter was led by U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and in addition to Isakson and Perdue, signed by U.S. Senators Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Doug Jones (D-AL), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Rick Scott (R-FL), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.).

On November 30, 2018, Perdue and Isakson sent two letters requesting additional funding for disaster assistance for Georgians recovering after Hurricane Michael: the first letter to Senate [appropriators](#) and the second to Senate [leadership](#).

The full text of the February 13 letter to Senate leadership is available [here](#).

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 8 Jun 2019 20:42:24 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Holds Disaster Relief Roundtable With Georgia Farmers



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator David Perdue Holds Disaster Relief Roundtable With Georgia Farmers

*Joins Secretary Perdue, Governor Kemp & More Than 150
Farmers & Agriculture Industry Leaders To Discuss Next Steps*

DOERUN, GA – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) joined U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Governor Brian Kemp, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, U.S. Representatives Sanford Bishop (D-GA-02) and Austin Scott (R-GA-08), and more than 150 farmers for a roundtable at Davis Family Farms in Doerun, Georgia. The group discussed the recent signing of critical disaster relief funding and next steps for Georgians impacted by Hurricane Michael.

After the United States Senate and House of Representatives [passed](#) a bipartisan disaster relief package, President Donald J. Trump [signed](#) the bill into law on June 6, 2019. Senator Perdue, U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), and the entire Georgia delegation fought for months to secure disaster aid for Georgia, which was devastated by Hurricane Michael in October 2018.

Click [here](#) or below to watch highlights from the roundtable with more than 150 Georgia farmers. Click [here](#) to download photos.



“This week, President Trump signed the disaster relief bill on Air Force One on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day,” **said Senator Perdue, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.** “It’s been eight months since Hurricane Michael blew through Georgia. I’m proud we were able to get this relief back to the farmers who have been devastated and to the local banks who have given our farmers patient help throughout these challenging months. There’s no doubt our agricultural communities are the backbone of America. I’m so thankful to our Georgia farmers who are feeding our country and the entire world. We’re here today to let you know we have your backs.”

“When Hurricane Michael hit southwest Georgia last October, President Trump came down immediately to see the damage for himself,” **said Secretary Perdue.** “This week, President Trump signed the disaster aid bill that would not have been possible without his leadership or the leadership of the Georgia members of Congress, like Senator Perdue. This aid will provide much needed support and resources to our producers and farmers here in Georgia. USDA stands ready to work with the state of Georgia to get this aid package implemented in weeks not months, in a fair and efficient way.”

“Hurricane Michael affected us tremendously in our cotton crop and specialty crops. Most of our crops were a total loss after the hurricane,” **said Dick Minor, owner of Minor Brothers Farms.** “We’re so thankful for the hard work Senator Perdue did to get this disaster bill passed. These critical disaster relief funds will not stay in our accounts – they will flow to not only our farmers but everybody involved in our communities here in south Georgia.”

“Our family farming operation lost about 60 percent of our cotton crop and a lot of infrastructure. Yet, west of us, a lot of guys lost 100 percent of their cotton crop,” **said Bart Davis, owner of Davis Family Farms.** “Getting disaster assistance will take a lot of burden off our farmers. Without the leadership of Senator Perdue, Commissioner Black, Governor Kemp,

Secretary Perdue, and Congressmen Bishop and Scott, this disaster relief would not have happened. This disaster package is not only for farmers, but it's for rural Georgia and rural America."

"This disaster relief is going to make a huge impact for all the farm families where I live," **said Russ Goodman, owner of Cogdell Berry Farm.** "I'm a seventh generation farmer. I grow blueberries, and our crop was hit in both 2017 and 2018. It's been very detrimental to our economy here in Southwest Georgia. I just want to thank Senator Perdue and all of our representatives for passing this disaster bill, because it's going to be a lifesaver for our rural communities."

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 5 Jun 2019 21:02:32 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perdue, Secretary Perdue, Governor Kemp To Hold Disaster Relief Roundtable



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator Perdue, Secretary Perdue, Governor Kemp To Hold Disaster Relief Roundtable

ATLANTA, GA – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Governor Brian Kemp, state and local elected officials, and community members will hold a roundtable discussion on Congress's recent passage of disaster relief with Georgia agriculture leaders in Doerun, Georgia. **The roundtable discussion will be open to press for b-roll and photos only – no questions. Following the roundtable, Senator Perdue and other elected officials will hold a media availability at 12:05 p.m. ET.**

Roundtable Discussion About Passage of Disaster Relief

WHO: U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), member of the Senate Agriculture Committee
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue
Governor Brian Kemp
Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black
U.S. Representative Austin Scott (R, GA-08), member of the House Agriculture Committee
U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop (D, GA-02), chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture

WHAT: Roundtable discussion on disaster relief passage and next steps with Southwest Georgia Agriculture Leaders

WHEN: Friday, June 7, 2019

TIME: 11:15 a.m. ET

**Media availability at 12:05 p.m. ET*

WHERE: Davis Family Farms
7861 Thigpen Trail
Doerun, Georgia 31744

Media wishing to attend should RSVP to [Casey Black@perdue.senate.gov](mailto:Casey.Black@perdue.senate.gov) by 5:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, June 6.

###

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 10 Apr 2018 20:55:00 +0000
To: White, Charles (Perdue)
Cc: Redding, Jody (Isakson)
Subject: RE: Letter to Wayne Dillard and Phil Addy

Will do...thanks Charles!

From: White, Charles (Perdue) [mailto:Charles_White@perdue.senate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: Redding, Jody (Isakson) <Jody_Reddington@isakson.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter to Wayne Dillard and Phil Addy

Thanks Tas!

Let us know if you plan to come down to Webster/Marion anytime soon.

Charles White
(b) (6)
Regional Representative
Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On Apr 10, 2018, at 3:55 PM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Jody and Charles,

Attached is a copy of a letter mailed today regarding Mr. Dillard and Mr. Addy's proposed FSA office location for the Marion/Webster County FSA office.

We have mailed hard copies for your reference as well.

If you have any questions let me know.

Thank you.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 5 Apr 2019 10:51:43 +0000
To: charles_white@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: Fwd: Producer Roundtable Meeting with Under Secretary Bill Northey
Attachments: Producer Roundtable Meeting with Under Secretary Bill Northey.pdf

Charles,

Wanted to make sure you received this invitation for the roundtable Tuesday with Under Secretary Bill Northey.

Keep close for now because we have limited seating, but we are expecting a good meeting with producers.

Hope you can join us!

Tas

On behalf of Tas Smith, Terrance Rudolph, and Davina Lee...

Please see attached invitation...

Thank you,

Jackie Clark

SED Secretary

USDA-Farm Service Agency

355 E. Hancock Ave., Mail Stop 100

Athens, GA 30601

email: Jackie.Clark@usda.gov

Phone: 706-546-2266

Fax: 855-409-5735

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Farm
Production
and
Conservation

Farm
Service
Agency

Georgia State
FSA Office
STOP 100
355 E. Hancock Ave.
Athens, GA
30601-2775

Voice: 706-546-2266
Fax: 855-409-5735

Producer Roundtable Meeting with Under Secretary Bill Northey

On behalf of Terrance Rudolph (State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service), Davina Lee (Director, Risk Management Agency, Valdosta Regional Office), and me, we cordially invite you to join us for a roundtable meeting with Farm Production and Conservation Under Secretary Bill Northey.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 9, 2019
12:00 – 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Lane Southern Orchards
50 Lane Road
Fort Valley, GA 31030
(5 minutes west of I-75, Exit 142)
1-800-277-3224

We are excited about this opportunity to meet with Under Secretary Northey to discuss issues facing FSA, NRCS, and RMA customers. We hope you and/or your representative will be able to attend. Please RSVP by Friday, April 5, to:

Jackie Clark, SED Secretary, USDA-Farm Service Agency
via phone: 706-546-2266 or via email: jackie.clark@usda.gov

Sincerely,

Tas Smith
State Executive Director

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 21 Sep 2018 17:43:31 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Meets With Colquitt County Farmers



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator David Perdue Meets With Colquitt County Farmers

MOULTRIE, GA – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, meets with the Colquitt County Farm Bureau and local leaders in the agriculture industry.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to download photos. Click [here](#) to download b-roll video.



“Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry and a major reason why our state continues to be the best state in the country in which to do business,” **said Senator Perdue**. “It was great to hear directly from Colquitt County farmers and producers about their needs and the challenges they face. Their input is critical as we continue working to make our agriculture industry safer, stronger, and more successful.”

“We appreciate Senator Perdue taking the time out of his busy schedule to come and talk to Colquitt County farmers one-on-one about issues that are important to our country,” **said Stanley Bass, President of the Colquitt County Farm Bureau**. “Agriculture is the largest industry in Colquitt County and it impacts all of its citizens.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Fry, Ben (Perdue)
Sent: 28 May 2019 15:02:53 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: RE: (b) (4) LIP Information

Thanks!

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <tas.smith@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Fry, Ben (Perdue) <Ben_Fry@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: Fwd: (b) (4) LIP Information

Ben,

See the response below from Matthew Ponish, with the Appeals and Litigation Division.

(b) (4) Will keep you posted as things progress.

Tas

From: "Martin, Brett - FSA, Athens, GA" <brett.martin@usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 10:58:08 AM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <tas.smith@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (4) LIP Information

Please see the response from Matt below. (b) (4)

Brett Martin
 Chief, Farm Programs Section
 USDA/FSA Office
 Mail Stop 102
 355 East Hancock Avenue
 Athens, GA 30601-2775
 (706)546-2262
 (855)409-5737 Fax

From: Ponish, Matthew - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Martin, Brett - FSA, Athens, GA <brett.martin@usda.gov>
Cc: Oneill, Sean - FSA, Washington, DC <sean.oneill@usda.gov>; Mitchell, Amy - FSA, Washington, DC <amy.mitchell1@usda.gov>; Graham, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <kimberly.graham@usda.gov>; Clanton, Russ - FSA, Washington, DC <russ.clanton@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (4) LIP Information

(b) (4)

Matthew T. Ponish
Appeals & Sanctions Team Leader
Appeals and Litigation Division
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Stop 0570
Washington D.C. 20250-0570
202-720-2118
matthew.ponish@usda.gov

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From: Martin, Brett - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:50 AM
To: Ponish, Matthew - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <matthew.ponish@usda.gov>
Cc: Oneill, Sean - FSA, Washington, DC <sean.oneill@usda.gov>; Mitchell, Amy - FSA, Washington, DC <amy.mitchell1@usda.gov>; Graham, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <kimberly.graham@usda.gov>; Clanton, Russ - FSA, Washington, DC <russ.clanton@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (4) LIP Information

Matt,

Were you able to contact (b) (4)? Senator David Perdue's office called my SED this morning asking about the status of the case.

Thanks,

Brett Martin
Chief, Farm Programs Section
USDA/FSA Office
Mail Stop 102
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30601-2775
(706)546-2262
(855)409-5737 Fax

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 13 Nov 2018 19:36:16 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: ICYMI: Sen. David Perdue & Sec. Sonny Perdue Profile - Never Forget Where You Came From

In case you missed it...

Never forget where you came from

By Kristin Moriarty

At Home In Houston County

November 2018

<https://bit.ly/2QCxLGI>



While Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and U.S. Senator David Perdue have served in political office for several years, one thing that never changes for them, as cousins, is never forgetting where they came from. In doing so, both agree that it has led them to blessings from their life lessons and family roots of meaningful, purposeful work.

Secretary Perdue was born at Doctor Gallemore's Clinic in Downtown Perry and raised in Bonaire. He attended three elementary schools due to the county's growth and rearranging of school districts, Westside Elementary, Lindsey Elementary, and C.B. Watson Elementary. He went on to Warner Robins Junior High and then graduated from Warner Robins High School.

Senator Perdue was born in Macon, Georgia and raised in Warner Robins. He attended Lindsey Elementary, Westside Elementary, Northside Junior High, and graduated from Northside High School. The two recall memories of growing up together.

"David and I grew up in that era of the glory years of the 1950s and 1960s where you did whatever it took," Sec. Perdue said.

"Both of our mothers were longstanding teachers in the Houston County School System and had proper expectations of us. Our fathers had very high expectations of us as well. We would have good grades, but it was always, why couldn't you do better? So we were always improving in a way that drove us in positive way to be the very best you could in all you did."

"We come from a big extended family," Sen. Perdue said. "No matter what, we always got together every chance we had. But I mainly would spend my summers with Sonny on his father's farm. If you look in the Webster's Dictionary for the definition of responsibility you will find a picture of Sonny. I remember watching Sonny at a really young age in the field working, and then straight from there he would put on his uniform to go to little league practice. The way we grew up and the principals we were embedded with at an early age gave us degree to never forget where we came from. And I think that's really important with public service."

Both Sec. Perdue and Sen. Perdue's mothers retired after teaching for over 40 years at the Houston County School System. Sen. Perdue's father was also a teacher, principal, and was the School Superintendent for several years. Sec. Perdue's father operated a dairy and diversified row crop farm.

After graduating high school, Sec. Perdue went on to the University of Georgia where he graduated with a doctorate in veterinary medicine. He also served in the United States Air Force working his way to the rank of captain. Following his military service, he became a small business owner concentrating in agribusiness and transportation; those businesses have grown to include several locations across the southeast.

Sen. Perdue went on to Georgia Institute of Technology where he graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Later on he earned his second degree from Georgia Institute of Technology, a master's in Operations Research. He served as an executive for leading international companies. As Senior Vice President of Asia Operations Research for Sara Lee, Perdue established the company's first Asia headquarters, was President and CEO of the Reebok brand, was credited with revitalizing the athletic brand, and as Chairman and CEO of Dollar General, he oversaw the company's expansion from 5,900 to 8,500 stores nationwide, creating thousands of quality jobs. While at Dollar General, he became heavily involved in literacy and served as Chairman of the National Commission on Literacy and Workforce Development.

Both never really thought about getting involved in the political world nor ever imagined serving on the national level together. Sec. Perdue said his first office of public service was on the Houston County Planning and Zoning Board.

"In the late 1970's and early 1980's, Houston County was growing by leaps and bounds," Sec. Perdue said. "I was asked during that time if I would be interested in serving on the planning and zoning board. At first I was hesitant, but nonetheless, it was a great experience and the best example of learning to listen to people and hear passion about their homes. Then I decided to run for the state senate in 1990, to which I served 11 years, and then ran for governor in 2001. I served two terms as governor. It was a difficult time during the economy, but we remained focused and came out strong. Last year I was minding my business when President Trump called (he said laughing). But it has truly been an amazing experience thus far to serve as Secretary of Agriculture."

As a two-term governor of Georgia, Sec. Perdue was credited with transforming a budget deficit into a surplus, dramatically increasing the student performance in public schools, and fostering an economic environment that allowed employers to flourish and manufacturers and agricultural producers to achieve record levels of exports. He reformed state budget priorities, helped Georgians create more than 200,000 new jobs, and promoted his home state around the world to attract new businesses.

Sen. Perdue never ran for any type of office until running for the United States Senate, where he was first elected in 2014.

"I called Sonny and drove up to his operation in Bonaire, when the seat in the Senate became open," Sen. Perdue said. "I told him he needed to consider running for senate, and that we need someone with the experience you have. Well, he told me he didn't feel led to do so, but then he said I should consider running. The next thing Sonny told me stuck with me, he said, 'I will tell you this, nobody knows what somebody else ought to do but you should think about this and pray about it.' I had been watching the budget since 2001. I had some major concerns about the debt. Three weeks later my wife Bonnie came to me and said running for the Senate was something she thought I needed to do. We were very blessed to get through the election."

While Sec. Perdue and Sen. Perdue never thought about serving in politics they both have enjoyed serving their state and country.

"I knew David would do an amazing job in the Senate and still does," Sec. Perdue said. "He still continues to advocate for things he came for. It's a seductive place up here and you can get compromised really quickly. And I am just extremely proud of David holding true to his promises for the people of Georgia. We take these stewardships very seriously. We want to make our family proud and people proud of morale and ethical decisions we make for Georgia and the U.S."

"I think that one of the blessings that we have is, it's unusual to have two contemporary family members involved in different ways like this," Sen. Perdue said. "I enjoyed watching Sonny work in the President's cabinet. I watch how that leadership flows through that room, and how it benefits of our famers around the country. Life experiences are what we bring up here, but we also bring the humility. I see so many people here in this town who kind of lose sight of who they are and where they came from. Sonny and I attend Bible studies led by our different committees and it's important. It keeps our feet on the ground and lets us know who is really in charge here."

###

Jenni Sweat
 @SenDavidPerdue
 Desk: 202.224.0614

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 16 Jul 2018 15:01:25 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue & Secretary Sonny Perdue Visit Georgia Ag Leaders



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 July 16, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Caroline Vanvick](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue & Secretary Sonny Perdue Visit Georgia Ag Leaders

GRIFFIN, GA – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black traveled across Georgia to hear from farmers, foresters, researchers, and stakeholders in the agriculture industry.

The day included a tour of Lewis Taylor Farms in Tifton, a stakeholder meeting at Georgia Forestry Association's headquarters in Forsyth, and a briefing from the University of Georgia's Turfgrass and Weed Science department in Griffin.

Click [here](#) to download high-resolution photos of the trip. Click [here](#) to download a highlights video.



“It was great to have the Secretary of Agriculture back in Georgia to meet with farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture industry,” said **Senator Perdue, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee**. “As Sonny and I learned growing up working on our family’s farms,

agriculture is a business and a way of life for many Georgians. During our visits, we heard directly from stakeholders about the unique challenges they face. I'm hopeful we'll get a Farm Bill to the President's desk soon that will provide farmers with certainty and help rural America thrive."

"David and I grew up on a Georgia farm, which makes it great to be able to come back as a United States Senator and Secretary of Agriculture to hear from our growers and producers," **said Secretary Perdue.** "We spent the day listening about trade, labor issues, regulations, the Farm Bill and a variety of other issues and will take what we heard back to D.C. to tell the President. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator Perdue and Commissioner Black in making Georgia's ag industry the best it can be."

"The Secretary and Senator both know that on-the-ground, grassroots input is always the best way to gather information," **said Commissioner Black.** "I am confident, particularly during this important period of discussion surrounding the Farm Bill, that our tour will yield positive results."

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 11 Dec 2018 18:36:17 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue On Trump Administration's Rollback Of Water Overregulation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 December 11, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator David Perdue On Trump Administration's Rollback Of Water Overregulation

"President Trump knows the last thing farmers need is more bureaucracy"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineer's new proposal to reduce federal regulations on water resources and replace President Obama's overreaching Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule:

"This is a huge win for farmers, businesses, ranchers, and landowners in Georgia and across the country," **said Senator Perdue.** "President Trump knows the last thing farmers need is more bureaucracy and invasion of their privacy rights. The EPA's new rule will get Washington out of the way and end years of uncertainty by simply defining where water regulations apply and where they do not. This is a welcome change from the blatant overreach of President Obama's ridiculous WOTUS rule."

Click [here](#) for the rule proposal.

Background on Senator Perdue's work to provide relief for Georgia farmers and landowners:

- April 2015 – Senator Perdue [co-sponsored](#) legislation to stop implementation of the EPA's overreaching WOTUS rule.
- November 2015 – Georgia farmers and agriculture leaders [urged](#) Congress to overturn WOTUS.
- February 2017 – Senator Perdue [applauded](#) President Trump's executive order to reverse the WOTUS rule.

- June 2017 – Senator Perdue [praised](#) the Trump Administration’s action to roll back WOTUS.

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: White, Charles (Perdue)
Sent: 20 Dec 2018 14:52:09 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Re: Seminole County FSA Office

Thanks for the heads up Tas. Merry Christmas.

Charles White

(b) (6)

Regional Representative
Office of U.S. Senator David Perdue

On Dec 20, 2018, at 9:47 AM, Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov> wrote:

Good morning Charles:

Wanted to ensure you received the news release that will be sent to producers announcing new hours of operation for the Seminole County FSA Service Center. I am grateful for your cooperation throughout this process.

If we can be of any assistance throughout this process, please let me know.

Hope you have a Merry Christmas!

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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<News Release Seminole County New Office Operation.doc>

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 16 Jan 2019 16:53:40 +0000
Bcc: michael.bryant@mail.house.gov;Michael.Reed@mail.house.gov;Paul.Fryer@mail.house.gov;alice.johnson@mail.house.gov;Jody_Redding@isakson.senate.gov;charles_white@perdue.senate.gov
Subject: Fwd: USDA to Reopen FSA Offices for Limited Services During Government Shutdown

FYI:

If y'all have any questions about our functions over the next few days let me know.

Hopefully, we can reopen in full force soon.

Tas

From: "USDA Office of Communications" <usda@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 11:17:22 AM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: USDA to Reopen FSA Offices for Limited Services During Government Shutdown

[View as a webpage](#)



Press Release

USDA to Reopen FSA Offices for Limited Services During Government Shutdown

(Washington, D.C., January 16, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced that many Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will reopen temporarily in the coming days to perform certain limited services for farmers and ranchers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recalled about 2,500 FSA employees to open offices on Thursday, January 17 and Friday, January 18, in addition to Tuesday, January 22, during normal business hours. The offices will be closed for the federal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Monday, January 21.

In almost half of FSA locations, FSA staff will be available to assist agricultural producers with existing farm loans and to ensure the agency provides 1099 tax documents to borrowers by the Internal Revenue Service's deadline.

“Until Congress sends President Trump an appropriations bill in the form that he will sign, we are doing our best to minimize the impact of the partial federal funding lapse on America's agricultural producers,” Perdue said. “We are bringing back part of our FSA team to help producers with existing farm loans. Meanwhile, we continue to examine our legal authorities to ensure we are providing services to our customers to the greatest extent possible during the shutdown.”

Staff members will be available at [certain FSA offices](#) to help producers with specific services, including:

- Processing payments made on or before December 31, 2018.

- Continuing expiring financing statements.
- Opening mail to identify priority items.

Additionally, as an intermittent incidental duty, staff may release proceeds from the sale of loan security by signing checks jointly payable to FSA that are brought to the county office by producers.

Information on the locations of FSA offices to be open during this three-day window will be posted:

- On the USDA [website](#).
- On Twitter at [@SecretarySonny](#) and [@USDA](#).
- On USDA's [Facebook](#).

While staff are available in person during this three-day window, most available services can be handled over the phone. Producers can begin contacting staff on January 17 [here](#).

Additionally, farmers who have loan deadlines during the lapse in funding do not need to make payments until the government shutdown ends.

Other FSA Programs and Services

Reopened FSA offices will only be able to provide the specifically identified services while open during this limited time. Services that will not be available include, but are not limited to:

- New direct or facility loans.
- New Farm loan guarantees.
- New marketing assistance loans.
- New applications for Market Facilitation Program (MFP).
- Certification of 2018 production for MFP payments.
- Dairy Margin Protection Program.
- Disaster assistance programs, such as:
 - Livestock Indemnity Program.
 - Emergency Conservation Program.
 - Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program.
 - Livestock Forage Disaster Program.
 - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish.

While January 15, 2019 had been the original deadline for producers to apply for MFP, farmers have been unable to apply since December 28, 2018, when FSA offices closed because of the lapse in federal funding. Secretary Perdue has extended the MFP application deadline for a period of time equal to the number of business days FSA offices end up being closed, once the government shutdown ends. These announced days of limited staff availability during the shutdown will not constitute days open in calculating the extension. Producers who already applied for MFP and certified their 2018 production by December 28, 2018 should

have already received their payments.

More information on MFP is available at www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp.

[Learn More](#)

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From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 20 Dec 2018 14:45:21 +0000
To: White, Charles (Perdue)
Subject: Seminole County FSA Office
Attachments: News Release Seminole County New Office Operation.doc

Good morning Charles:

Wanted to ensure you received the news release that will be sent to producers announcing new hours of operation for the Seminole County FSA Service Center. I am grateful for your cooperation throughout this process.

If we can be of any assistance throughout this process, please let me know.

Hope you have a Merry Christmas!

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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Cathy Smith, Acting CED

1012 Ag Lane, Box A
Bainbridge, GA 39817
Voice: (229) 246-5773
Email: cathy.smith@ga.usda.gov

News Release

Release No.: 2016-001

Contact: Cathy Smith, Acting CED
cathy.smith@ga.usda.gov

SEMINOLE COUNTY FSA OFFICE NEW HOURS OF OPERATION

The Seminole County FSA Office is under a permanent shared management operation with the Decatur County FSA Office. Due to budget related challenges and limited resources available, this notification is to inform you that the Seminole County FSA Office will operate with reduced hours and will be open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This change is effective January 7, 2019.

Producer records may be accessed by the Decatur County FSA Office at any time if you are unable to conduct your FSA business on Tuesday and/or Thursday in the Seminole County FSA Office.

Producers will have the option to select another Administrative Office to administer their farm records if it is more convenient.

Producers are encouraged to visit the Decatur County FSA Office to conduct their FSA business. The Decatur County FSA Office is located at 101 Ag Lane, Box A, Bainbridge, GA 39817 and their telephone number is (229) 246-5773.

For more information contact Cathy Smith, Acting County Executive Director,
(229) 246-5773

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

From: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Sent: 11 Jan 2019 21:56:24 +0000
To: Sweat, Jenni (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senators Perdue, Isakson Congratulate American Farm Bureau On 100th Anniversary



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 January 11, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senators Perdue, Isakson Congratulate American Farm Bureau On 100th Anniversary

ATLANTA, GA – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) introduce a Senate resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Farm Bureau Federation and celebrating its long history representing farmers across the United States.

“For the past 100 years, the American Farm Bureau has been a champion for farmers and rural communities across the country,” **said Senator Perdue**. “Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry and a major reason why our state continues to be the best state in the country in which to do business. We’re fortunate to have Georgians like Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue leading the way toward a safer, stronger, and more abundant agricultural industry. Congratulations to all members of the Farm Bureau on this exciting milestone.”

“The American Farm Bureau has worked tirelessly for 100 years to foster growth for all sectors of agriculture in Georgia and across the United States,” **said Senator Isakson**. “The American Farm Bureau is currently led by a great Georgian, Zippy Duvall, who has been a staunch advocate for agriculture and farming in our state. I’m proud to join my Senate colleagues in recognizing this achievement, and I commend the American Farm Bureau on reaching this important milestone. Here’s to another 100 years of success!”

Background:

- Founded in 1919, the American Farm Bureau Federation is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing American farmers and ranchers whose mission is to “enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.”

- Zippy Duvall, a Greensboro, GA native, was elected president of the American Farm Bureau Federation in January 2016.
- Contributing an annual \$73 billion to Georgia's economy, agriculture is the state's leading industry. Additionally, Georgia is home to a larger variety of agricultural industries than almost any other state.

The Senate resolution recognizes the many contributions made by the American Farm Bureau Federation in helping shape agriculture policy through advocacy, education and grassroots efforts. It was introduced by Perdue, Isakson, and 48 of their Senate colleagues on January 10, 2019. Full text of the resolution is available [here](#).

###

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 1 Apr 2019 23:40:51 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue On Congress' Failure To Pass Disaster Relief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue On Congress' Failure To Pass Disaster Relief

“Senate Democrats are using farmers in the Southeast and the people of Puerto Rico as pawns in their political game.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) comments on the U.S. Senate’s failure to pass a bipartisan disaster relief package for Georgia and other areas of the country impacted by recent natural disasters, including Puerto Rico.

“Washington has reached a new low,” **said Senator Perdue.** “It’s been nearly six months since Hurricane Michael ravaged Georgia and other states across the country, and Congress has failed to help the very people it claims to represent. President Trump reached across the aisle, along with other Republicans, to compromise on disaster relief, but only one Democrat was willing to work with us. Do not be fooled – Senate Democrats are using farmers in the Southeast and the people of Puerto Rico as pawns in their political game. It is hypocritical that Democrats say they want to help Puerto Rico recover, and yet they obstruct this disaster relief. Senator Isakson and I are not giving up. We will continue fighting until we get relief for the people of Georgia and other Americans across the country.”

In February, Senator Perdue, U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), and a group of senators [introduced](#) a bipartisan disaster relief package with funding for Georgia and other states that are recovering from recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 4 Mar 2019 14:25:32 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: WTAS: Georgia Leaders, Farmers Urge Congress To Pass Disaster Relief Package



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 March 4, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING: **Georgia Leaders, Farmers Urge Congress To Pass Disaster Relief Package**

ATLANTA, GA – Georgia leaders, farmers, and other elected officials are urging Congress to quickly pass the [bipartisan disaster relief package](#) introduced last week by U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA). President Trump, working with a bipartisan group of senators, has confirmed his support for disaster relief and encouraged Congress to pass legislation with funding for Georgia and other states that are recovering from recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp: “I thank Senator Isakson and Senator Perdue for their tireless work to secure aid for thousands of hardworking Georgians in dire need. Their leadership will provide farm families vital assistance as they work to rebuild and revive heavily impacted areas of our state. President Trump and Vice President Pence saw firsthand the generational damage Georgians and our neighbors endured at the hands of Hurricane Michael, and we are very grateful that they stood with us every step of the way. Now, it is time for Congress to act quickly, end the delays and gridlock, and fulfill their responsibility to the people of Georgia.”

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black: “For at least the 116th time, I call on all Members of the 116th Congress to abandon partisan gamesmanship, embrace American statesmanship and look deep into the eyes of the farm families and rural communities affected by Hurricane Michael. I applaud our Georgia Congressional Delegation for their tireless efforts to advance a disaster package and the administration for their continued commitment to recovery for our communities. It is now time for the politics to be put aside so we can finish the drill of addressing disaster relief for our citizens.”

Georgia Farm Bureau President Gerald Long: “Last October, Hurricane Michael swept across our state at what could not have been a worse time for Georgia farmers. Many were days

or weeks from harvest when the storm hit, and nearly all was lost in a matter of hours. Georgia Farm Bureau has been working for months with industry partners and our congressional delegation to secure federal assistance to help our farmer-members and rural Georgia recover from the storm. We applaud Senators David Perdue and Johnny Isakson for their efforts to keep this important conversation going by introducing and working to advance a disaster aid package. We're also encouraged by President Trump's continued commitment to help Georgia rebuild all that Hurricane Michael destroyed. It is long past time for Congress to act, though, as many farmers are having trouble securing operating loans for the 2019 crop year—pushing them closer and closer to the point of no return.”

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr: “Thank you Senators Perdue and Isakson – and our entire congressional delegation – for standing up for Georgians devastated by natural disasters! Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry, and we must do all we can to help our friends and neighbors get back on their feet.”

Brent Brinkley, President, Georgia Pecan Growers Association: “Hurricane Michael leveled a path of destruction all across Georgia from the Southwest corner to North Carolina. Michael destroyed generational investments in timber and pecans as it worked its way directly across the pecan belt of Georgia. Myself and many of my grower friends are still cleaning and burning pecan trees that were planted by our fathers and grandfathers. It’s truly heartbreaking and will take more than a generation to recover. On behalf of Georgia Pecan Growers, Farmers and Foresters, I want to thank Senators Perdue and Isakson for continuing to push this much-overdue disaster relief bill. American farmers are proud and the last to look for welfare or a handout. However, this disaster is unprecedented and urgent federal assistance will mean the difference between a future in Agriculture or the end of generational farming.”

Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR): “I commend the leadership of Senator Perdue as well as the unwavering commitment of Senators Rubio and Scott on behalf of vulnerable families in Puerto Rico. Their action to include an extension of \$600 million for Puerto Rico’s nutritional assistance program demonstrates once again the unequivocal sense of responsibility that the Senate majority has to provide for the well-being of American citizens on the Island. Extending this program has been a top priority for me, as it will have a direct impact to close to 279,000 beneficiaries or 125,000 families. Senator Perdue’s bill puts my constituents one step closer to receiving the assistance they need to continue the long path towards recovery and I look forward to its swift passage.”

###

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Sent: 30 Nov 2017 23:26:33 +0000
To: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue)
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Hey it's going great Gabriele!

Thanks for asking. Love getting to work with Joyce...she is special!

No problem at all. Will reach out to Daniel.

Thanks again!

Tas

Sent from Email+ secured by MobileIron

From: "Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue)" <Gabriele_Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov>
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 6:24:49 PM
To: "Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA" <Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: "Hale, Daniel (Perdue)" <Daniel_Hale@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Hello!!!

How's the new job? Senator Perdue is delighted this all worked out for you. Regardless he unfortunately is not available during the time requested. However, Daniel Hale who handles these issues would be more than glad to meet. Please reach out to him directly at daniel_hale@perdue.senate.gov to arrange a meeting. He is copied on this email as well.

Thanks again and please let me know if you have any questions.

Gabriele



GABRIELE FORSYTH
Scheduler

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR DAVID PERDUE
 383 Russell Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510
 Phone: 202.224.3521

From: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA [mailto:Tas.Smith@ga.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 10:42 AM

To: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) <Gabriele_Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov>
Cc: Hale, Daniel (Perdue) <Daniel_Hale@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request

Gabriele,

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

I will be in DC for my FSA Director training next week and wanted to see if it was possible to meet briefly with Senator Perdue on Thursday, December 7.

I don't want a lot of time... just to update him on what is going on at the agency and to see if we can help in any way.

I'm sorry this request is so late...we just got our agenda this morning.

If you need any additional information just let me know.

Thanks so much Gabriele.

Tas Smith
State Executive Director
Georgia Farm Service Agency, USDA
tas.smith@ga.usda.gov
355 E. Hancock Ave., Stop 100
Athens, GA 30601
706-546-2266
FAX 1-855-409-5735

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From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 19 Apr 2019 16:41:00 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: ICYMI: Sen. David Perdue: What's causing the delay in disaster relief

In case you missed it...



What's causing the delay in disaster relief? Here's what really happened behind closed doors

By U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA)

April 19, 2019

<https://fxn.ws/2W0PHOd>

Our country has suffered a series of unprecedented natural disasters over the last year. Hurricanes in the Southeast, wildfires in California, earthquakes in Alaska, and floods in the Midwest have left millions of Americans in desperate need of help from the federal government.

Congress had an opportunity to pass a \$13.6 billion disaster aid package that would have provided immediate assistance to people who are suffering. Senate Democrats voted against it.

Why? Democrats said Republicans were unwilling to provide adequate funding for Puerto Rico. That is absolutely ridiculous.

Here's what really happened behind closed doors:

Last December, disaster aid got caught up in the border security debate and was left out of the spending bill. Senate Republicans went back to Senate Democrats to see what was needed in order to make a deal on disaster relief as soon as possible.

It was determined that \$600 million to extend the food assistance program in Puerto Rico was most critical since the program was set to expire at the end of March.

I personally brought this updated request to the president, and he agreed to it.

We added the \$600 million to our bill in the Senate, and then we voted on April 1st. I wish this was the end of the story. It's not.

Democrats cowered to their political self-interests and their leadership and killed our disaster relief bill on the floor of the United States Senate.

We gave Democrats exactly what they asked for, but Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., decided to change course and hold disaster relief victims hostage in a misguided effort to extract concessions from Republicans on a number of unrelated topics, including border security.

Schumer watched carefully as Democratic senators cast their votes on the disaster relief bill. After the senior senator from California, Dianne Feinstein, voted “yes” on the bill – which includes billions for her state – the Democratic leader pulled her aside and then she switched her vote to “no.” At the same time, the other Democratic senator from California, Kamala Harris, was in Nevada campaigning for president and missed the vote entirely. This kind of blind partisanship is exactly what the American people find unacceptable about Washington.

Now, Democrats have started a campaign of manufactured outrage and have purposely misled the American people for their own political gain. They’re pushing headlines like, “Trump’s Grudge Against Puerto Rico Is Blocking Needed Disaster Aid Across The US.” That could not be further from the truth.

President Trump has been resolute in his support of the people of Puerto Rico.

The president has already approved \$41 billion in combined disaster aid for Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the Island. He has also made an additional \$50 billion available to Puerto Rico going forward.

As a result, Puerto Rico is set to receive three times more funding than Texas did for Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and nearly double what was appropriated for Hurricane Sandy in 2013.

It’s clear this fight has nothing to do with Puerto Rico funding. For Democrats, this is about obstructing the president and preventing him from keeping his promise to help the American people recover after hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires ravaged their communities.

People in my state have been waiting on federal disaster aid for six months. While the Democratic Leader and his members play politics, Georgia farmers are going bankrupt, California wildfire victims are struggling to rebuild, and Puerto Rican families are losing access to food benefits.

If Democrats truly cared about the people of Puerto Rico, maybe they would listen to them. Puerto Rico’s own representative in Congress, Jenniffer González-Colón, said our bill provides exactly what her constituents need. Specifically, she said, “I urge swift Senate passage of the \$600 million funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program. Over 1.3 million of my constituents are already experiencing cuts in their food benefits. Puerto Rico needs this funding and needs it now.”

I'm sick and tired of politicians that claim to be looking out for the little guys, but all they do is treat them like pawns in their power games. Democrats claim they want to be bipartisan, but time and time again, they fail to rise to the occasion.

Democrats may think they're sticking it to the president, but they're actually sticking it to the American people. Georgians are paying attention and will not forget how Democrats have abandoned them in their time of need. Mark my words, the American people will remember how President Trump is standing up and fighting for them.

United States Senator David Perdue is the junior senator from Georgia and the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress. He serves on the Armed Services, Budget, Agriculture, and Banking Committees.

###

Casey Black
@SenDavidPerdue
Desk: 202-224-1324

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 3 Apr 2019 16:41:15 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue: This Is The Ultimate Political Hypocrisy



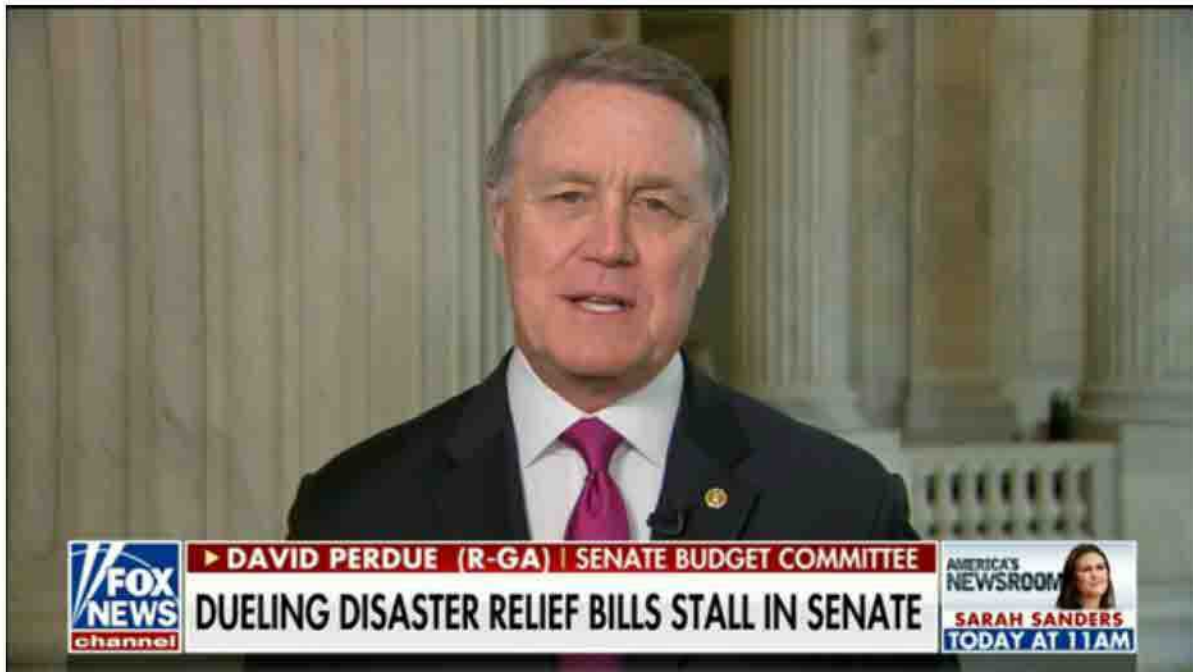
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

**Senator David Perdue: This Is The Ultimate Political
Hypocrisy**
*Slams Senate Democrats For Blocking Bipartisan Disaster
Relief Package*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) joined Fox News *America's Newsroom* to discuss his work to pass disaster relief in Congress. Earlier this week, Senate Democrats [blocked](#) a bipartisan disaster relief package that would have helped Georgia and other areas of the country recovering from recent natural disasters, including Puerto Rico.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to watch.



Highlights:

President Trump Backed Disaster Relief: “Farmers in the Southeast have been devastated by Hurricane Michael. Our bill also had help for wildfire victims in California and flood victims in the upper Midwest, as well as nutritional assistance for the people in Puerto Rico. This was a compromise bill. President Trump supported it, negotiated, and was totally willing to sign the bill into law. That’s the reason we got it on the floor in the Senate for a vote.”

Pure Partisan Politics: “This is nothing but partisanship. Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer don’t want to let President Trump have any victory on any issue. It’s same thing we saw on border security. For years, Democrats said there’s a crisis at the border. Even President Obama built 135 miles of barrier along the southern border and called it a crisis. Now that President Trump wants to address it, the Democrats say it's terrible. The same hypocrisy is applying on this disaster relief.”

Political Hypocrisy: “Senator Feinstein voted against \$6 billion of aid for her state and for the victims of the wildfires. This is the ultimate political hypocrisy, and it’s the reason so many Americans are furious with the U.S. Senate right now.”

Put It In Perspective: “In 2013, the federal government appropriated \$50 billion for the victims of Hurricane Sandy, mostly in New Jersey. In 2017, \$136 billion was appropriated for three different hurricanes and wildfires. Our disaster relief package was just \$13.5 billion, and \$3 billion of that went to the farmers in the Southeast. We had a compromise disaster relief bill, and it should have been passed.”

Not Giving Up On Disaster Relief: “We are still negotiating and working on it. We’ll find some way to get disaster relief to the Senate floor. We have to make sure it can pass the House as well.”

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 12 Dec 2018 23:28:36 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator Perdue, Congressman Scott Secure Funding For HBCU Agriculture Scholarships



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 December 12, 2018

CONTACTS:
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324
[Jenni Sweat](#), 202-224-0614

Senator Perdue, Congressman Scott Secure Funding For HBCU Agriculture Scholarships *Included In 2018 Farm Bill, Which Now Heads To President Trump's Desk To Become Law*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) and U.S. Representative David Scott (D-GA-13), both members of the Bipartisan Congressional Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus, have secured funding in the 2018 Farm Bill for agriculture-focused scholarships at Historically Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities across the country.

“As a member of the HBCU Caucus, one of my top priorities is increasing opportunities for all students to pursue the skills they need to succeed,” **said Senator Perdue, member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.** “Agriculture is Georgia’s number one industry and a major reason why our state continues to be the best state in the country in which to do business. In order to secure the future of farming in Georgia and across the country, we have to find ways to encourage diverse and qualified leadership and ownership in our agricultural community. These scholarships will help young farmers become the nation’s next agriculture leaders. I am very grateful for Congressman Scott’s commitment and perseverance in supporting our HBCUs in Georgia.”

“This is Historic. A glorious example of bipartisanship, Democrats and Republicans, working together,” **said Congressman Scott, member of the House Agriculture Committee.** “I am especially proud of the \$80M we have secured in funding for new scholarships for students attending the 19 African American 1890’s land-grant colleges and universities across the nation. These scholarships will play a critical role in providing greater assistance for beginning farmers, and providing financial scholarships to bring more young people of all races who attend these

outstanding universities for careers in the wonderful, and exciting, and growing world of agriculture businesses. I thank Senator David Perdue for his help getting the scholarships in the Senate bill. This is a great blessing from God and we are thankful.”

Background on the amendment secured by Senator Perdue and Congressman Scott:

- In the Second Morrill Act of 1890, the 1890s Land grant institutions must receive funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) every 5 years.
- Currently, these funds can be used for three purposes: research, education, and extension as authorized by the Farm Bill. Senator Perdue and Congressman Scott’s amendment will add a fourth purpose – student scholarships – and will provide an additional \$19 million dollars of funding annually for the 19 Historically Black Land-Grant colleges and universities.
- The additional funds will be distributed by USDA and will apply to students with agriculture-focused studies, such as agribusiness, food production, distribution and retailing, clothing industries, and farming in marketing, finance, and distribution.

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 1 May 2019 21:38:38 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Senator David Perdue Meets With Georgia Farm Bureau About Disaster Relief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue Meets With Georgia Farm Bureau About Disaster Relief

“We will continue fighting until we get relief to Georgia and all states that are hurting.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, joined Georgia Farm Bureau to discuss ongoing efforts to advance a bipartisan disaster relief package for states impacted by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters. It has been nearly seven months since Georgia was devastated by Hurricane Michael in October 2018.

Click [here](#) or below to download photos.



“It’s been nearly seven months since Hurricane Michael hit Southwest Georgia, and Congress still has not fulfilled its responsibility to provide relief for farmers who lost everything,” **said Senator Perdue**. “Previous disaster relief packages were not held up in partisan battles like this. Georgia Farm Bureau has been resolute in their efforts to support our farmers and encourage bipartisan consensus among Members of Congress. To our farmers in Georgia – rest assured we will continue fighting until we get disaster relief flowing to Georgia and all states that are hurting.”

“This week, Georgia Farm Bureau members have traveled to Washington, DC to urge our nation’s leaders to come together to help those impacted by last year’s extreme weather events,” **said Gerald Long, President of Georgia Farm Bureau**. “It has been more than six months since Hurricane Michael swept across Georgia and destroyed nearly \$2.5 billion in agricultural commodities and Georgia farmers, along with countless other farmers across the nation, are still waiting for help. Without federal assistance, many in our industry may never recover. We are grateful for the leadership that Georgia Senators David Perdue and Johnny Isakson, along with our entire congressional delegation, have shown throughout this process. It is time for Congress to act, and we stand ready to work with members of Congress and the Trump Administration to find a path forward on a disaster assistance package.”

Background:

- On November 30, 2018, Senator Perdue and U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) sent two letters requesting additional funding for disaster assistance for Georgians recovering after Hurricane Michael: the first letter to Senate [appropriators](#) and the second to Senate [leadership](#).

- On January 31, Senators Perdue and Isakson [introduced](#) a supplemental agriculture disaster relief amendment to provide critical funding for Georgia and other states recovering from recent hurricane and wildfire damage.
- On February 13, Senators Perdue and Isakson joined 11 other bipartisan senators in [sending](#) a letter to House and Senate leadership urging immediate action on a supplemental disaster relief package.
- On February 26, Senators Perdue and Isakson joined Doug Jones (D-AL), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), Tim Scott (R-SC), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) to introduce a \$13.6 billion [disaster relief package](#) with the backing of President Trump after prior funding attempts were removed from other supplemental spending packages.
- On April 30, Senators Perdue and Isakson, along with U.S. Senators Doug Jones (D-AL), Rick Scott (R-FL), and Thom Tillis (R-NC), held a [bipartisan press conference](#) to urge Congress to advance a bipartisan disaster relief package for states impacted by hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other natural disasters.

###

Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 26 Mar 2019 21:50:44 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: SOON – Senator Perdue To Speak On Disaster Relief

Good Afternoon – Just want to give you a heads up that Senator Perdue is heading to the Senate floor now to speak about disaster relief. He'll get started around **6:00pm ET.**

As a reminder, the Senate just voted to begin debate on the disaster relief package – 90-10.

Recently, Senator Perdue said, *"Our farmers simply cannot wait on disaster relief any longer. The situation in my state is dire. Rural communities are suffering. Economic activity is at an absolute standstill in many places because the federal government has yet to do its job. If we do not help these people right now, they may lose their businesses and livelihoods through no fault of their own. That's the reality we're facing here."*

"It's time to step up and do the right thing."

[WATCH HERE.](#)

Thanks,

Casey Black
@SenDavidPerdue
Desk: 202-224-1324

From: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Sent: 26 Feb 2019 21:29:43 +0000
To: Black, Casey (Perdue)
Bcc: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA
Subject: Bipartisan Senators Introduce Major Disaster Relief Package



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 February 26, 2019

CONTACTS:
[Cherie Gillan](#), 202-224-6594
[Casey Black](#), 202-224-1324

Bipartisan Senators Introduce Major Disaster Relief Package

President Trump Drives Effort For Disaster Relief Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators David Perdue (R-GA), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Doug Jones (D-AL), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), Tim Scott (R-SC), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) today introduced a bipartisan disaster relief package with the backing of President Donald J. Trump. President Trump, working with this bipartisan group of senators, has confirmed his support for disaster relief and encouraged Congress to pass legislation with funding for Georgia and other states that are recovering from recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

“In October, President Trump and Vice President Pence both saw the devastation of Hurricane Michael firsthand and promised farmers they would have their backs. In pushing for this disaster relief bill, the President is fulfilling that promise,” **said Senator Perdue, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.** “Now, it is up to Congress to follow through and pass this critical, bipartisan bill. Our farmers and rural communities cannot wait any longer for disaster relief. For some Georgia farmers, the timing of assistance will determine whether they put a crop in the ground ever again.”

“I’ve spoken personally with President Trump and Vice President Pence, with Senate leaders, with Governor Kemp and with Georgia farmers about our desperately needed disaster aid legislation and how to get it moving as soon as possible,” **said Senator Isakson.** “This legislation will provide critical funds to our farmers and producers who suffered significant agricultural losses in Georgia last year during Hurricane Michael. We are now close to planting season, and time is of the essence for the lives and livelihoods in the industry. We cannot overstate the importance of quickly passing this legislation to restore our agriculture community in Georgia.”

“In Alabama, we’ve seen our fair share of hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe weather over the years, but that doesn’t mean it gets any easier to either experience a disaster or to rebuild after one,” **said Senator Jones**. “Therefore, I’m proud to join Senator Perdue to introduce this bill and help folks get back on their feet by providing \$13.6 billion in additional disaster relief funds. This bipartisan legislation will help Alabama farmers who were hard hit by Hurricane Michael.”

“While Senate Republicans voted overwhelmingly to help Florida communities devastated by Hurricane Michael earlier this year, Congress has repeatedly played politics with disaster funding at the expense of local communities still struggling to recover,” **said Senator Rubio**. “Each day that Congress fails to act, state and local governments become increasingly at risk of running out of the necessary resources needed to address critical issues and fully recover from recent disasters. Our communities should not have to suffer the consequences of Congress’s inaction any longer. It is time to act.”

“As Governor of Florida, I saw firsthand the destruction left behind by multiple devastating hurricanes,” **said Senator Rick Scott**. “Following these storms, we worked nonstop to help our communities recover – but there is still a lot to do, especially when it comes to rebuilding Tyndall Air Force Base. Disaster funding should not be a political fight and needs to be brought to the floor of the Senate as quickly as possible. I will never stop fighting for disaster funding to help Tyndall return to its full operation and make sure Florida families and businesses have the resources they need to get back to their normal lives. I’m glad this bill also includes the funding to help our friends in Puerto Rico continue to rebuild following Hurricane Maria.”

“It’s well past time for Congress to move forward with this much needed disaster funding,” **said Senator Tim Scott**. “Thanks to my colleague Senator Perdue for leading the charge, and I hope we see a vote in the immediate future.”

“Alaskans are a tough, resilient, and caring people. Within hours of the last November’s earthquake, the Trump Administration was eager to do what they could to help in the aftermath,” **said Senator Sullivan**. “In addition to the response of our local Emergency Response personnel, Alaska Department of Transportation and countless others were out inspecting and repairing infrastructure within hours – that rebuilding continues today. This bipartisan relief package provides for states like Alaska that seek to further that rebuilding process in the aftermath of a major natural disaster.”

“As North Carolina continues to recover from Hurricane Florence, this bipartisan legislation is a positive step to ensure our great state receives the resources it needs to help communities affected by the storm,” **said Senator Tillis**. “Immediately following the destruction, I worked with Senator Burr and the entire North Carolina delegation to secure an initial down payment of recovery funding on behalf of North Carolinians, but much more still needs to be done. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate and ensure our families, businesses and farmers have the opportunity to rebuild from the devastation left by Hurricane Florence.”

This bipartisan funding package includes:

- Approximately \$13.6 billion in overall relief efforts to all those affected.

- Critical agriculture disaster relief for farmers recovering in the wake of Hurricane Michael and other natural disasters across the country.
- Development grants for small, rural communities impacted by natural disasters in 2018.
- Assistance for veterans' health facilities, and military construction projects devastated by Hurricane Michael.
- Emergency funds for critical timber, watershed, and wastewater infrastructure needs.
- Restoration of highways, aviation facilities, and other transit projects damaged by natural disasters.
- Additional \$600 million in nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico in response to President Trump's disaster declaration.

Click [here](#) for text of the bipartisan disaster relief package.

###

From: Ross, Andrew
Sent: 23 Feb 2018 19:43:10 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA; Ziesenhene, Greg (Perdue)
Subject: Lunch w/ Tas Smith FSA Executive Director

From: Ross, Andrew
Sent: 1 Mar 2018 15:00:19 +0000
To: Smith, Tas - FSA, Athens, GA; Ziesenhene, Greg (Perdue)
Subject: Lunch w/ Tas Smith FSA Executive Director