

## **Office of the Governor**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Farmers in 10 Counties Eligible for Emergency Loans**

Governor Christie Whitman and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Brown announced today that USDA Secretary Dan Glickman has made farmers in 10 counties eligible for emergency loans as a result of losses due to severe and extended drought conditions from June 13 through October 19, 1997. Governor Whitman requested the Secretarial disaster designation in December. Glickman granted the designation following a review of damage assessment reports and other information submitted by the State Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). The three primary counties included in the designation are Cape May, Cumberland and Monmouth. Farmers in the contiguous counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean and Salem may also be eligible for loans FSA. Farmers have eight months to apply for FSA emergency loans to cover part of their actual production losses. To be eligible, producers must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production in a single enterprise, be able to repay the loan, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere and have adequate security. Loan applications are available from any Farm Service Agency office.