



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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April 17, 2007

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I request that USDA disaster assistance be made available to the farmers across the state due to crop losses resulting from extreme cold temperatures that occurred April 5-10, 2007.

Kentucky experienced lower than normal temperatures which destroyed many of the Commonwealth's crops. From April 5-10, 2007, the average low temperature reported for the Bluegrass Area was twenty-five degrees. In early reports, it appears crops with a loss greater than 30 percent include: strawberries, alfalfa, wheat, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, blueberries, and barley.

This damage was increased by the unseasonably warm temperatures in late March. The devastation was widespread throughout the state from Ashland to the Mississippi River. The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture specialists estimate that winter wheat yields could be reduced at least 50 percent. Wheat accounted for \$66 million in farmgate receipts to Kentucky growers in 2005. Early estimates report close to a 100 percent loss on orchards and first cuttings of alfalfa.

Thank you for your full consideration of this request. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernie Fletcher".

Ernie Fletcher

c: Richie Farmer, Commissioner
Keith Rogers, GOAP