Gov. Edwin Edwards has requested that farmers in 39 parishes be designated eligible for disaster assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Many crops have had to be replanted because of losses caused by a late freeze at the start of the agricultural year, Edwards said, adding that later periods of drought and extreme heat further contributed to the losses. Many areas are now getting excessive rainfall and acres of crops may not be harvested, the governor said.

He said soybean crops have been most severely affected throughout the state this year.

Damage assessment reports show that 30 percent of crops were lost in Cameron, DeSoto, Jackson, Madison, Ouachita, Red River, Tangipahoa, Webster and West Carroll parishes, Edwards said.

The governor said the State Agriculture Emergency Board also is reporting severe problems exceeding a 30 percent crop loss for a large number of farmers in these parishes: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, East Baton Rouge, Evangeline, Franklin, Iberville, Lafayette, Lafourche, LaSalle, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Richland, St. Mary, Tensas, Vermilion, Vernon and West Baton Rouge.

In addition to Farmers Home Administration disaster assistance, the governor also is requesting that all Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service program assistance be made available to Louisiana farmers in stricken areas.