WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today applauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) approval of Disaster Assistance to New London County. The county was declared eligible because it is contiguous to Rhode Island counties that were declared Primary Natural Disaster Areas as a result of Tropical Storm Irene.

"This is very good news for farmers in New London County, but it underscores again that other Connecticut Counties and farmers are still waiting for a final decision from USDA," **said Congressman Courtney**
. "Having seen the damage for myself firsthand after the storm, it is clear to me that farmers need assistance to rebuild their small businesses. With this ruling, small business owners in New London can join farmers in Tolland, Windham and Hartford Counties who already began that process. I will continue to work to ensure that all of the Connecticut farmers who were devastated by Tropical Storm Irene get the assistance they need."

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