

## Parts of High Country Declared Disaster Areas

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Monday, 23 April 2007 07:16

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Governor Mike Easley has requested the U.S. Department of Agriculture to designate 56 counties across North Carolina as

disaster areas due to the freezing temperatures the state experienced during Easter weekend. The preliminary estimate on crop loss across the state is 111 million dollars. Among the counties in which the governor requested to have disaster

designation: Ashe, Avery, Burke, Mitchell, Watauga and Yadkin. Easley also sent four teams of emergency management personnel to assess storm damage in 5 counties this week. Caldwell and McDowell were included in that group.