The United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency, received a Presidential Disaster Declaration in December of 2000. This declaration was issued for the persistent drought which included the remaining 6 counties of deep south Texas, specifically, Brooks, Jim Hogg, Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Kenedy counties. Both Zapata and Starr counties received declarations in August of 2000. The dollar figures of damages for this declaration will be available very soon.

Monthly rainfall departures averaged about a half to an inch below normal in January 2001, the first month of the new year. Lack of beneficial rainfall continued to keep all of deep south Texas in a moderate to severe drought. Storage at Falcon reservoir is 46 feet below conservation level, and 37 feet below conservation at Lake Amistad.