

# DISASTER ASSISTANCE

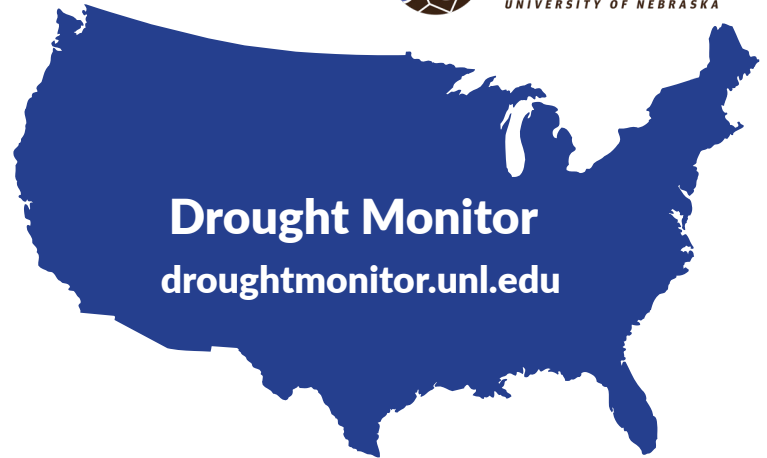
## What is the U.S. Drought Monitor?

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a map released every Thursday, showing parts of the U.S. that are in drought. The map uses five classifications: abnormally dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought: moderate (D1), severe (D2), extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4). It is produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

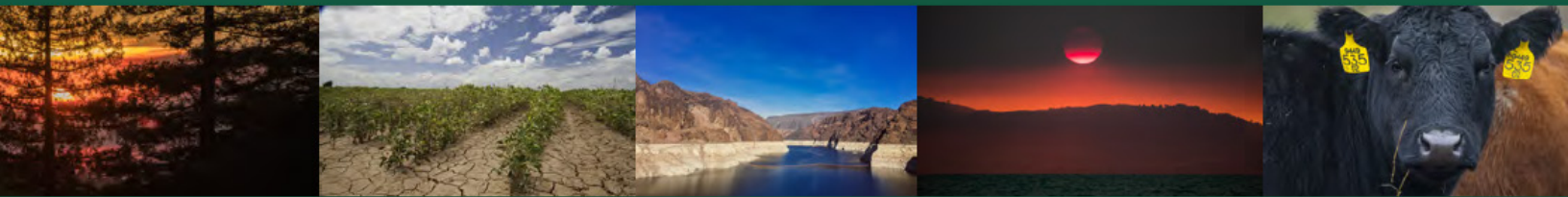
The USDM incorporates varying data – rain, snow, temperature, streamflow, reservoir levels, soil moisture, and more – as well as first-hand information submitted from on-the-ground sources such as photos, descriptions, and experiences.



NATIONAL DROUGHT  
MITIGATION CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA



The mapmakers rely on their judgment and a nationwide network of 450-plus experts to interpret conditions for each region. You can contribute your observations to the USDM process by visiting [droughtimpacts.unl.edu/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx](https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx)



## The USDA uses the USDM map as a trigger for programs that help agricultural producers recover from drought and other natural disasters:

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who are also grazed forage producers and have suffered drought-related grazing losses during the normal grazing period for the county. LFP is for eligible livestock owners on native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or planted specifically for grazing. [fsa.usda.gov/lfp](https://fsa.usda.gov/lfp)

### Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster or Livestock Indemnity Programs. In relation to drought, this program specifically covers water transportation to livestock physically located in a county designated as D2- Severe Drought and above according to the USDM. Assistance is also available to honeybee producers for additional feed losses in counties rated as D2-Severe and above/or higher on the USDM.

And, ELAP now covers feed transportation costs where grazing and hay resources have been depleted, this includes in D2-Severe Drought for eight consecutive weeks, a D3 or greater drought intensity rating, or where USDA has determined a shortage of local or regional feed availability. [fsa.usda.gov/elap](https://fsa.usda.gov/elap)

### Fast Track USDA Disaster Designations

The fast track process is an expedited process for USDA Secretarial disaster designations developed for severe drought situations. The fast track process is based on drought intensity data from the USDM. To qualify for a Secretarial designation under the fast track process, a county must experience 8 weeks of continuous severe drought (D2), or extreme drought (D3) or exceptional drought (D4) for any length of time, during the county's grazing period. A designation triggers emergency loan availability. [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/disaster-designation-information/index](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/disaster-designation-information/index)



### Emergency Farm Loans

Available to producers with agricultural operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial disaster designation. These low-interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses. [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans)

### Emergency Haying & Grazing – Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP allows haying and grazing on certain CRP acres in counties designated as D2 or higher on the USDM. Requests for haying and grazing may also be initiated by the FSA County Committee if there is 40% or greater loss of forage production due to the disaster event. (Producers should also check with their local USDA Service Center about non-emergency CRP haying and grazing options). [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/emergency-haying-and-grazing](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/emergency-haying-and-grazing)

## Other USDA Farm Service Agency Drought Recovery Assistance

(not dependent on USDM data)

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP pays covered producers of eligible non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for the current crop year. [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://fsa.usda.gov/nap)

### Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

ECP helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters. ECP provides funding and assistance to restore damaged farmland or to install infrastructure for water conservation during severe drought. Drought emergency measures provide for water conservation and enhancement to: permit grazing of range, pasture, or forage by livestock; supply emergency water for existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards; provide emergency water for confined livestock operations; and restore fencing. [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation)

### Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP helps eligible orchardists and tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub, and vine mortality losses in excess of normal mortality due to natural disaster. [fsa.usda.gov/tap](https://fsa.usda.gov/tap)

### Direct and Guaranteed Loans

Available to help producers who are unable to secure commercial financing. Loans can be used to replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs. [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmloans)

### Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

EFRP helps the owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health damaged by natural disasters. [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration)

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides assistance to producers who experience livestock deaths due to wildfire and extreme heat (based on actual temperature and varies by state). [fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity](https://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity)

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Drought Recovery Assistance Programs

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements on the land. While not established specifically for disaster response, the program can assist with immediate recovery needs and provide long-term support to help conserve water resources, reduce wind erosion on drought-impacted fields, improve livestock access to water, recover from natural disasters like wildfires, and more. [nrcs.usda.gov/eqip](https://nrcs.usda.gov/eqip)

### Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

EWP helps communities address watershed impairments due to drought and other natural occurrences. This funding will help drought-ravaged communities and private landowners address watershed impairments, such as stabilizing stream banks and replanting upland sites stripped of vegetation. [nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/?&cid=nrcs143\\_008258](https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/?&cid=nrcs143_008258)





## USDA Risk Management Agency Insurance Programs

Crop insurance provides indemnity payments to growers who purchase coverage for production and quality losses related to drought and other weather hazards, including losses caused by inability to plant on time. The crop insurance safety net is one method producers employ to mitigate their risk. [rma.usda.gov](https://www.rma.usda.gov)

## Additional Resources

### USDA Drought Programs

USDA offers programs that can help with drought recovery as well as those that can help you manage risk and build resilience on your operation. [farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought)

### USDA Climate Hubs

[climatehubs.usda.gov](https://climatehubs.usda.gov)

### Disaster Discovery Tool

Aids in determining which Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and/or Risk Management Agency (RMA) programs are available to help producers prepare for, recover from and build long-term resilience to natural disasters. [farmers.gov/protection-recovery](https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery)

### USDA Disaster Assistance Programs At-A-Glance Brochure

Provides a quick reference overview of USDA disaster programs available for all disaster events including drought.

[farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/FSA\\_DisasterAssistance\\_at\\_a\\_glance\\_brochure\\_.pdf](https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/FSA_DisasterAssistance_at_a_glance_brochure_.pdf)

### USDA Disaster Resource Center

Provides information about specific disasters and emergencies and connects with state and local help.

[usda.gov/topics/disaster](https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster)

**Farmers.gov Service Locator** to find the closest USDA Service Center.

[farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator)

### USDA Farm Service Agency

[fsa.usda.gov](https://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

[nrcs.usda.gov](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

### USDA Risk Management Agency

[rma.usda.gov](https://www.rma.usda.gov)