



As of April 8, 2022, [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Secretarial Drought Designations](#) have been issued for every county in Nevada, initiating USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) [Disaster Assistance programs](#) for those affected by drought. The FSA drought disaster assistance is segmented by production type, each with specific eligibility requirements. Determining which program is most appropriate for a producer is the first step. The FSA has [local offices](#) and agents throughout Nevada to help producers and their specific needs. In addition to FSA assistance, drought relief programs and resources are also available through the [USDA Risk Management Agency \(RMA\)](#), [Natural Resource and Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#), the [Nevada Department of Agriculture \(NDA\)](#), and other organizations. Below is general information and guidance on drought relief programs and resources. The USDA Disaster assistance tool is helpful in navigating the various programs that can assist during a drought disaster. The tool can be found at: www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool. Producers facing resource gaps or challenges, are encouraged to reach out to the NDA Drought Program Coordinator Chris Moreno at cmoreno@agri.nv.gov to find solutions.

NDA HELP AND RESOURCES

Some of the resources available to producers are managed by USDA agencies—the FSA, the NRCS and the RMA. Drought is not typically a fast-moving disaster and the timeline for producers to apply for assistance can vary. Understanding the drought designations and the timelines for submitting impact reports can also be confusing when unfamiliar with disaster assistance programs. Additionally, drought programs available from NRCS can be proactive instead of reactive which can greatly reduce drought impacts from future drought events. Knowing the difference can save producers a lot of time depending on their needs. Producers that are having difficulty navigating the resources available to them can reach out to NDA Drought Program Coordinator Chris Moreno at cmoreno@agri.nv.gov.

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SUBMIT PRODUCER IMPACTS FROM DROUGHT

The NDA would like to know what drought impacts are felt in Nevada that are unique and may require additional drought relief programs. Are there any crops or response activities in which you are struggling to find assistance with? Please notify the NDA via email at cmoreno@agri.nv.gov.



FSA DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The [Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#) is available to help repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to assist with approved methods for water conservation during periods of severe drought. All counties in Nevada are currently eligible due to the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation as of April 2022. The eligibility period will continue until the disaster designation is lifted.

The FSA County Committee will inspect the damaged land to determine eligibility for ECP. For land to qualify for ECP funds, the damage from the natural disaster or severe drought must create new conservation problems that if not addressed would:

- Further damage the land;
- Significantly affect the land's productive capacity;
- Represent damage from a natural disaster unusual for the area (an exception to this is damage from wind erosion); and/or
- Be too costly to repair without Federal assistance in order to return the land to agricultural production.

Conservation problems that existed before the disaster or severe drought are ineligible for ECP assistance. Technical assistance to address agriculture land conservation problems may also be provided by the NRCS.

The [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) is available to cover losses from drought. Hay and grasses intended for food or livestock and that aren't eligible for private crop insurance or insurance provided through RMA can apply for this FSA program. The NAP application period is open for future coverage of grazing season. There is no retroactive coverage, so producers will want to apply as soon as they can. Applications can be completed at their local FSA office. Notification of crop loss is required within 15 days that loss is apparent. The damaging weather must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest, and must directly affect eligible crop(s).



DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS

FSA DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish \(ELAP\)](#) provides assistance for eligible producers who have experienced livestock feed losses due to natural disasters such as drought. This program provides eligible producers with compensation for expenses associated with transporting water to livestock located in counties with at least eight consecutive weeks of D2 Severe Drought, D3 Extreme Drought or greater as defined by the US Drought Monitor. The deadline for ELAP assistance for 2022 calendar year losses is Jan. 31, 2023.

There is assistance available for water transportation, but not for the cost of water. Drought and wildfire on federally managed land are not eligible and must occur on private lands for ELAP to cover losses.

There is additional assistance provided for feed transportation for drought-impacted ranchers. Under the revised policy for feed transportation cost assistance, eligible ranchers will be reimbursed 60% of feed transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed for 90% of the feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

The [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#) is available for drought-affected land planted for grazing that has suffered a loss from drought. All counties in Nevada are currently eligible due to the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation as of April 2022. The eligibility period will continue until the disaster designation is lifted.

The LFP provides payments to:

- Eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock AND
- Who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing) that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

Example: A cow-calf producer experienced drought on their land and rather than feed them hay, decided to sell cow-calf pairs in August due to summer drought conditions. They owned the land and the cows in the 60 days leading up to the drought. They have sales receipts for the pairs as commercial purpose livestock. They filed an acreage report when they realized that they are eligible for an LFP payment if they didn't already have one on file. Assuming they met all the requirements they would receive a payment. The LFP payment = head x payment rate per head x payment months.

[Emergency Farm Loans](#) are also available for producers in need of emergency funding, and provides recovery from production and physical losses experienced due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters. In order to be eligible, a producer must own or operate land located in a county with a Disaster Designation, including those related to drought, and have experienced at least 30% loss in crop production or physical loss in livestock. FSA loans are different from private lenders and require borrowers to operate with a farm plan developed and agreed upon with their local FSA office.

The use of the Emergency Farm Loan can cover the costs for essential family living expenses, restore or replace essential property, reorganization of farming operations, and/or pay for all or part of the production costs associated with the disaster year.

Example: Reorganizing of farming operations can mean changing enterprises, production practices, marketing methods, or other parts of the farm business to promote recovery from the disaster and reduce the potential impact of any future disasters. A producer that had severe drought or flood damage to a field that caused a loss of 30% or more in production yield can shift from row crop to vegetable production. They could also purchase grain drying and storage equipment to facilitate better marketing. Any operational changes are acceptable if a realistic farm operating plan indicates the changes will improve the financial viability of the farm.

CONTACT

Resources are continually being developed as drought-related needs evolve. The USDA [farmers.gov](#) website will have the most up-to-date resources available. Producers unsure of where to start, needing assistance determining which programs are best for them or looking to plan ahead are encouraged to contact:

Chris Moreno

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[agri.nv.gov](#)