



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Matthew J. Lohr
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

October 25, 2023

Candy McGarry
Nelson County Administrator
84 Courthouse Square
P.O. Box 336
Lovingsston, VA 22949

Dear Ms. McGarry,

I am writing to inform you that Nelson County has been approved as a drought designation area by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This designation opens the door to various forms of assistance and resources to help mitigate the challenges posed by the ongoing drought for our local agricultural community. Please see the attached letter for specific details.

Farmers in Nelson County affected by the drought are now eligible to apply for assistance programs provided by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), including emergency loans. The FSA will assess each emergency loan application individually, taking into account specific circumstances and needs.

For more information on these assistance programs and the application process, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Ronald M. Howell, State Executive Director at the Virginia FSA State Office, USDA Farm Service Agency by email at Ronald.Howell@usda.gov or by phone at (804) 287-1503.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Ronald M. Howell. We look forward to our continued collaboration in assisting our local farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew J. Lohr".

Matthew J. Lohr



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

October 30, 2023

THE HONORABLE GLENN YOUNGKIN
Governor
State of Virginia
State Capitol
3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating four Virginia counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and an adjacent state are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

Other counties in Virginia may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure

DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR VIRGINIA AND A CONTIGUOUS STATE

Primary Counties

Virginia	(4)		
Augusta	Culpeper	Greene	Madison

Contiguous Counties:

Virginia	(14)		
Albemarle	Nelson	Rockbridge	Stafford
Bath	Orange	Rockingham	Staunton
Fauquier	Page	Spotsylvania	Waynesboro
Highland	Rappahannock		

Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:

West Virginia	(1)
Pendleton	

USDA Disaster Assistance Programs At a Glance

Disaster Programs	Agency	Blizzard	Fire	Hurricane/ Typhoon	Excessive Moisture/ Flood	Excessive Winds/ Tornado	Drought	Hail	Volcanic Eruption/ Emissions	Freeze	Earthquake
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting.	FSA	✱	✱	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - provides financial cost-share assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to re-plant or, where applicable, rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters. A qualifying mortality loss in excess of 15 percent (in excess of normal mortality) must be sustained to trigger assistance.	FSA	✱	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✱ Yes, only as a related condition to an eligible disaster

Other natural disasters that may apply to some of these programs (not all perils are eligible loss conditions for all programs) include:

- Explosion;
- High water;
- Landslide;
- Mudslide;
- Severe snowstorm;
- Storm, including ice storms;
- Tidal wave;
- Wind-driven water;
- Insect infestation;
- Plant disease;
- Lightning; and
- Other natural phenomena.

Some man-made conditions qualify for disaster assistance, as follows:

Disaster Programs	Agency	Pesticide Contamination	Nuclear Radiation/ Fallout	Toxic Substances Other Than Pesticides	Chemical Residue Other Than Pesticides
Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) - provides compensation to dairy producers when a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because it has been contaminated by pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and chemical residues other than pesticides.	FSA	✓	✓	✓	✓

FSA = Farm Service Agency | NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service | RMA = Risk Management Agency



More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply.

For more information about USDA disaster programs, visit farmers.gov/recover or contact your local USDA Service Center.

To find your local USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

To locate an approved insurance provider, visit the Agent Locator on rma.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

July 2022
Program Aid 2266

USDA Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) | NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) | RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA)



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

USDA Disaster Assistance Programs At a Glance

Icon Key = Yes = No = Yes or No, with caveats (see footnote)

Disaster Programs	Agency	Blizzard	Fire	Hurricane/Typhoon	Excessive Moisture/Flood	Excessive Winds/Tornado	Drought	Hail	Volcanic Eruption/Emissions	Freeze	Earthquake
Crop Insurance – provides indemnity payments to growers who purchased crop insurance for production and quality losses related to drought and other weather hazards, including losses from an inability to plant caused by an insured cause of loss.	RMA										
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Hay and Grazing – provides for emergency haying and grazing on certain CRP practices in a county designated as D2 or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor, or in a county where there is at least a 40 percent loss in forage production.	FSA										
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) – provides assistance to eligible owners of livestock, and producers of honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions not covered by LFP and LIP.	FSA										
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to restore farmland damaged by natural disasters and for emergency water conservation measures in severe droughts.	FSA										
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) – provides funding to restore privately owned forests damaged by natural disasters. Assistance helps landowners carry out emergency measures to restore forest health on land damaged by floods, hurricanes or other natural disasters.	FSA										
Farm Loans – provides Emergency and Operating loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters or livestock quarantine and can pay for farm operating and family living expenses.	FSA										

¹ Yes, but only if determined eligible by FSA.
² Yes, except on federally managed land
³ No, except for water and feed transportation
⁴ Yes, but only for grazing losses

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Disaster Programs	Agency	Blizzard	Fire	Hurricane/Typhoon	Excessive Moisture/Flood	Excessive Winds/Tornado	Drought	Hail	Volcanic Eruption/Emissions	Freeze	Earthquake
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements on the land including financial assistance to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters. These practices include activities like stream bank restoration, grassed waterways and buffers. NRCS-funded conservation practices protect your land from erosion, support disaster recovery and repair and can help mitigate loss from future natural disasters. Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.	NRCS										
Emergency Watershed Program (EWP-Recovery) – offers vital recovery options for local communities to help people reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Project funds address erosion related watershed impairments by supporting activities such as removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; and reseeding damaged areas. EWP Floodplain Easements – provide an alternative to Recovery efforts described above. NRCS has the authority to purchase floodplain easements (FPE) as an alternative measure to traditional Recovery where sites meet EWP-FPE eligibility criteria and it is determined that acquiring an easement in lieu of Recovery is the more economical and prudent approach to reducing the threat to life or property.	NRCS										
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) – provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing.	FSA										
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – provides benefits to livestock owners and some contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that are the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal Law. Also, LIP provides assistance to livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.	FSA										

⁵ Yes, but only on federally managed lands impacted by the fire for which the producer is prohibited from grazing the normally permitted livestock by the Federal agency
⁶ No, except when associated with anthrax
⁷ Yes, but only if deaths result from freeze incidental to a winter storm or extreme cold as determined by FSA.

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