

# **USDA and the Use of the U. S. Drought Monitor (USDM)**

# Programs Subject to USDM Designations

- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Designations
- Emergency Loans Program
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Severe Drought Designation and Implementation Requests
- Add'l Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019



# LFP Program Eligibility

**LFP** provides assistance to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to a qualifying **drought** condition during the normal grazing period for the county on land that is :

- native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover
- a crop planted specifically for grazing (small grains, forage sorghum, etc.)

**OR** provides assistance to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on:

- rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying **fire**

# LFP Program Trigger

LFP uses the U. S. Drought Monitor to:

- classify drought severity ranging from *abnormally dry* (D0) to *exceptional drought* (D4) to determine if eligible livestock producers in a county may receive assistance under LFP,
- determine the number of payment months.

The drought must occur during the normal grazing period for a specific type of grazing land or pastureland.

# LFP Program Trigger

- The monthly payment rate is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost:
  - for all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer
  - calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer
- Not to exceed 5 months
- Provisions for mitigated livestock – 80 percent

# LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county rated as having a **D2 (severe drought)** intensity in any area of the county for at least **8 consecutive weeks** during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance equal to a 1 month payment.

Intensity and Impacts	
 None	 D2 (Severe Drought)
 D0 (Abnormally Dry)	 D3 (Extreme Drought)
 D1 (Moderate Drought)	 D4 (Exceptional Drought)

# LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county during the normal grazing period rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having **D<sub>3</sub> (extreme drought)** intensity in any area of the county **at any time** during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance equals to a 3 month payment.

Intensity and Impacts	
 None	 D2 (Severe Drought)
 D0 (Abnormally Dry)	 D3 (Extreme Drought)
 D1 (Moderate Drought)	 D4 (Exceptional Drought)

# LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county rated as having **D<sub>3</sub> (extreme drought)** intensity in any area of the county for at least **4 weeks (nonconsecutive weeks)** or a **D<sub>4</sub> (exceptional drought)** intensity in any area of the county **at any time** during the normal grazing period is eligible for assistance equal to a 4 month payment.

Intensity and Impacts	
 None	 D2 (Severe Drought)
 D0 (Abnormally Dry)	 D3 (Extreme Drought)
 D1 (Moderate Drought)	 D4 (Exceptional Drought)

# LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county rated as having **D<sub>4</sub>** (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least **4 weeks (nonconsecutive)** during the normal grazing period is eligible for assistance equal to a 5 month payment.

Intensity and Impacts	
 None	 D2 (Severe Drought)
 D0 (Abnormally Dry)	 D3 (Extreme Drought)
 D1 (Moderate Drought)	 D4 (Exceptional Drought)

# LFP Program Trigger

- Weekly LFP Program Eligibility Maps can be found at:
  - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>

# LFP Program Trigger

## Weekly LFP Program Eligibility Maps

These maps depict the weekly LFP program eligibility by county for the US and Puerto Rico, based on grazing periods, drought intensity, and forage types.

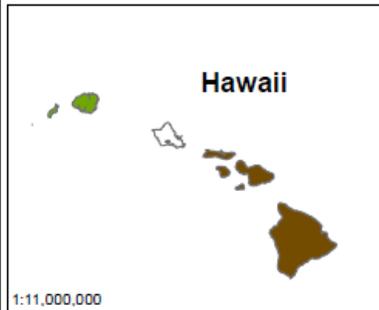
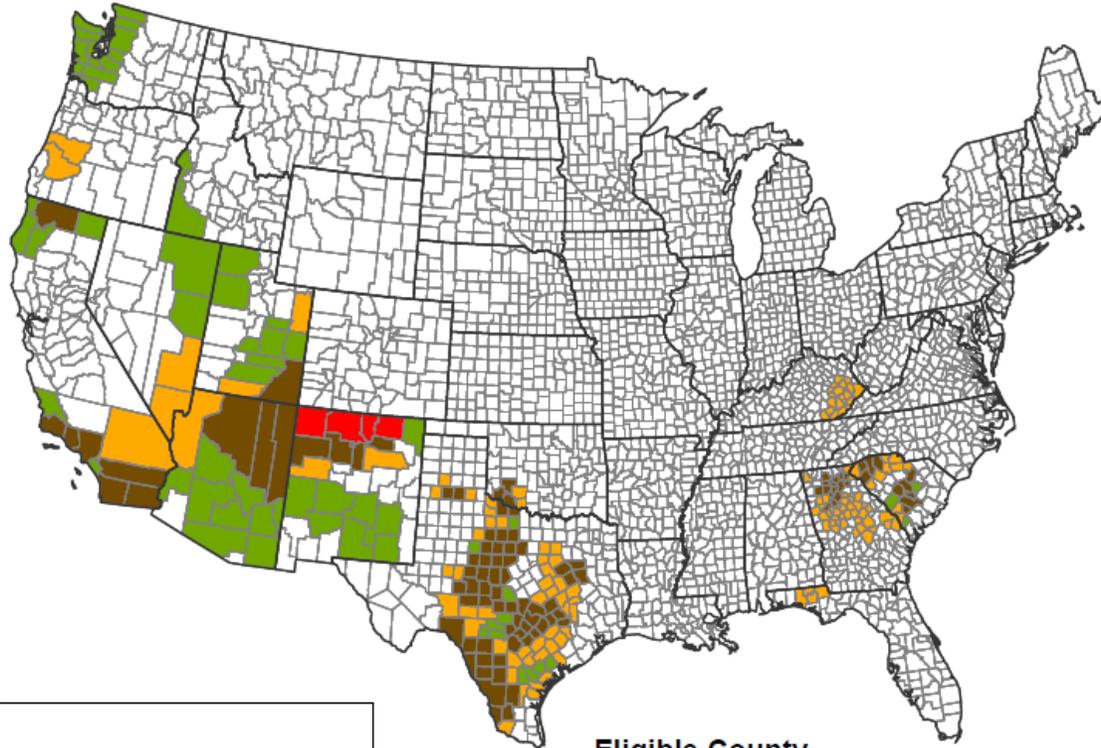
### 2020 Program Year Livestock Forage Program Maps (PDF files)

- [Annual Rye Grass](#), 2020 Program Year (PDF)
- [Cool Season Improved](#), 2020 Program Year (PDF)
- [Full Season Improved Pasture](#), 2020 Program Year (PDF)
- [Long Season Small Grains](#), 2020 Program Year (PDF)
- [Native Pasture](#), 2020 Program Year (PDF)
- [Short Season Small Grains](#), 2020 Program Year (PDF)

### 2019 Program Year Livestock Forage Program Maps (PDF files)

- [Annual Crab Grass](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Annual Rye Grass](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Forage Sorghum](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Full Season Improved Mixed](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Full Season Improved Pasture](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Long Season Small Grains](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Native Pasture](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Short Season Small Grains](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)
- [Warm Season Improved Pasture](#), 2019 Program Year (PDF)

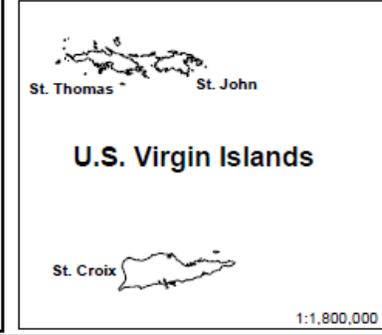
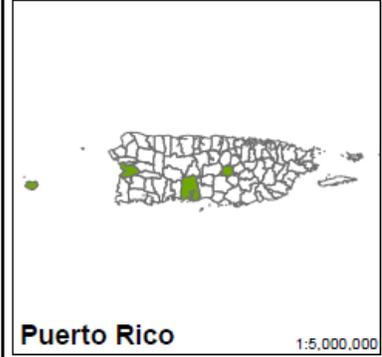
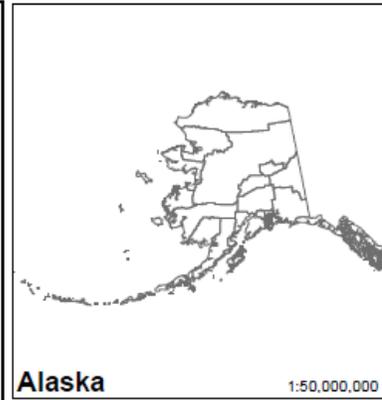
# Livestock Forage Program Native Pasture - 2019 Program Year



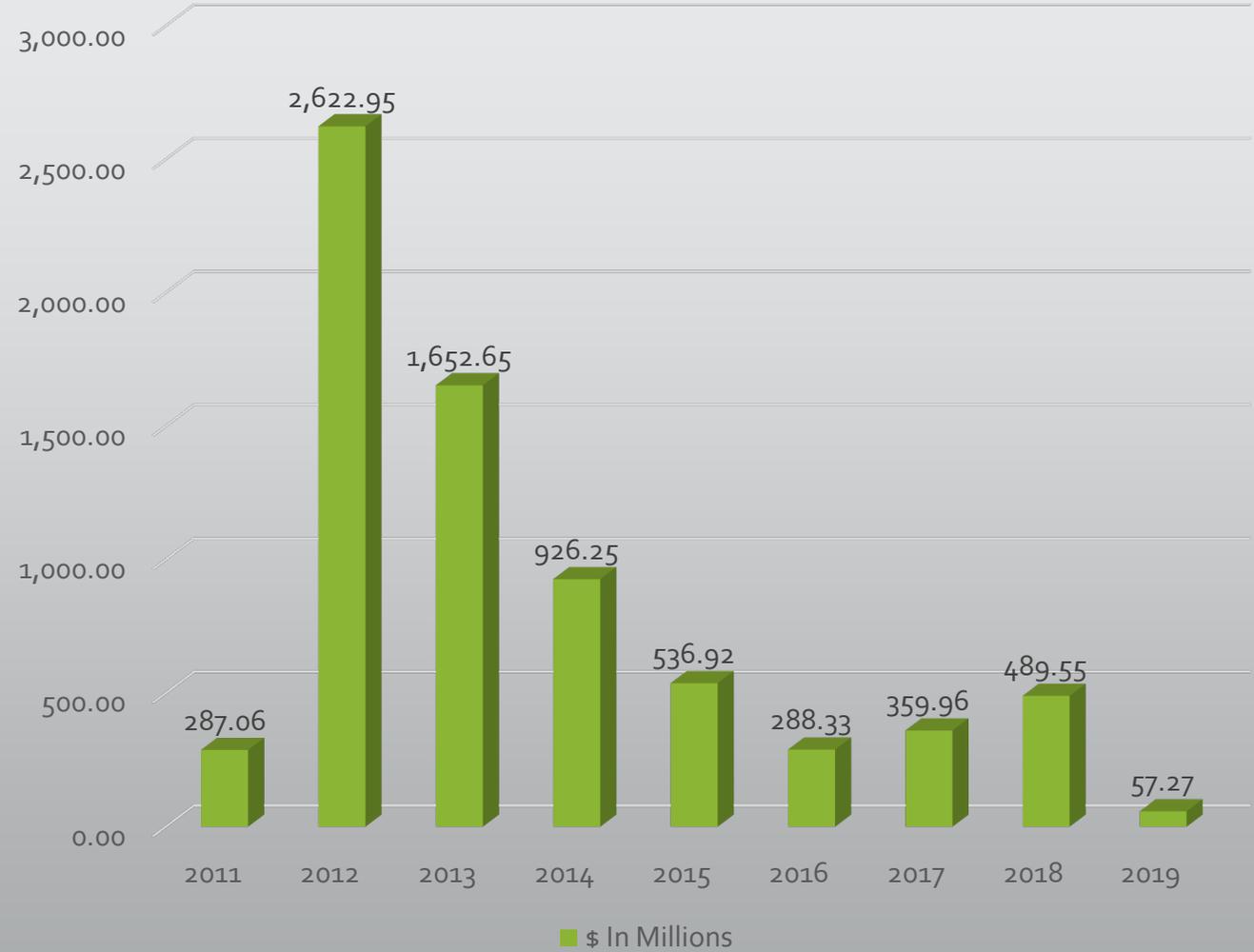
Eligible County  
Payment Months



**USDA**  
Map Scales Vary  
Data Update - 01-09-20



# LFP Program Payment History



# ELAP Program Trigger

ELAP pays for the additional cost of transporting water to livestock in any area of the county that has been rated by USDM as having a **D<sub>3</sub> (extreme drought)** intensity that directly impacts water availability at any time during the normal grazing period

Assistance is also available to honeybee producers for additional feed loss in county rated as a **D<sub>3</sub> (extreme drought)** .

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

- An expedited process for Secretarial disaster designations developed for severe drought situations completed by the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office.
- Based on drought intensity data from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

- To qualify for a Secretarial designation under the fast track process, a county must experience one of the following during the normal grazing period:
  - 8 weeks of continuous **severe drought (D<sub>2</sub>)**, or
  - **extreme drought (D<sub>3</sub>)**, or
  - **exceptional drought (D<sub>4</sub>)** for any length of time.

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

- Fast track designations:
  - are determined based on the earliest and latest established beginning and ending grazing dates for forage in the county, taking all grazed forage into consideration
  - covers losses because of drought.

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

- After a county receives a designation for drought through the fast track process, a second Secretarial designation for drought may be requested for the county if:
  - 8 months have passed since the fast track designation was approved
  - producers of spring-planted crops are unable to apply for EM loans because the 8-month loan application period has expired.

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

- For all other natural disaster occurrences, including drought conditions that do not trigger a Fast Track designation, the county must have a 30 percent production loss of at least one crop or a determination must be made by surveying producers that other lending institutions will not be able to provide emergency financing.

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

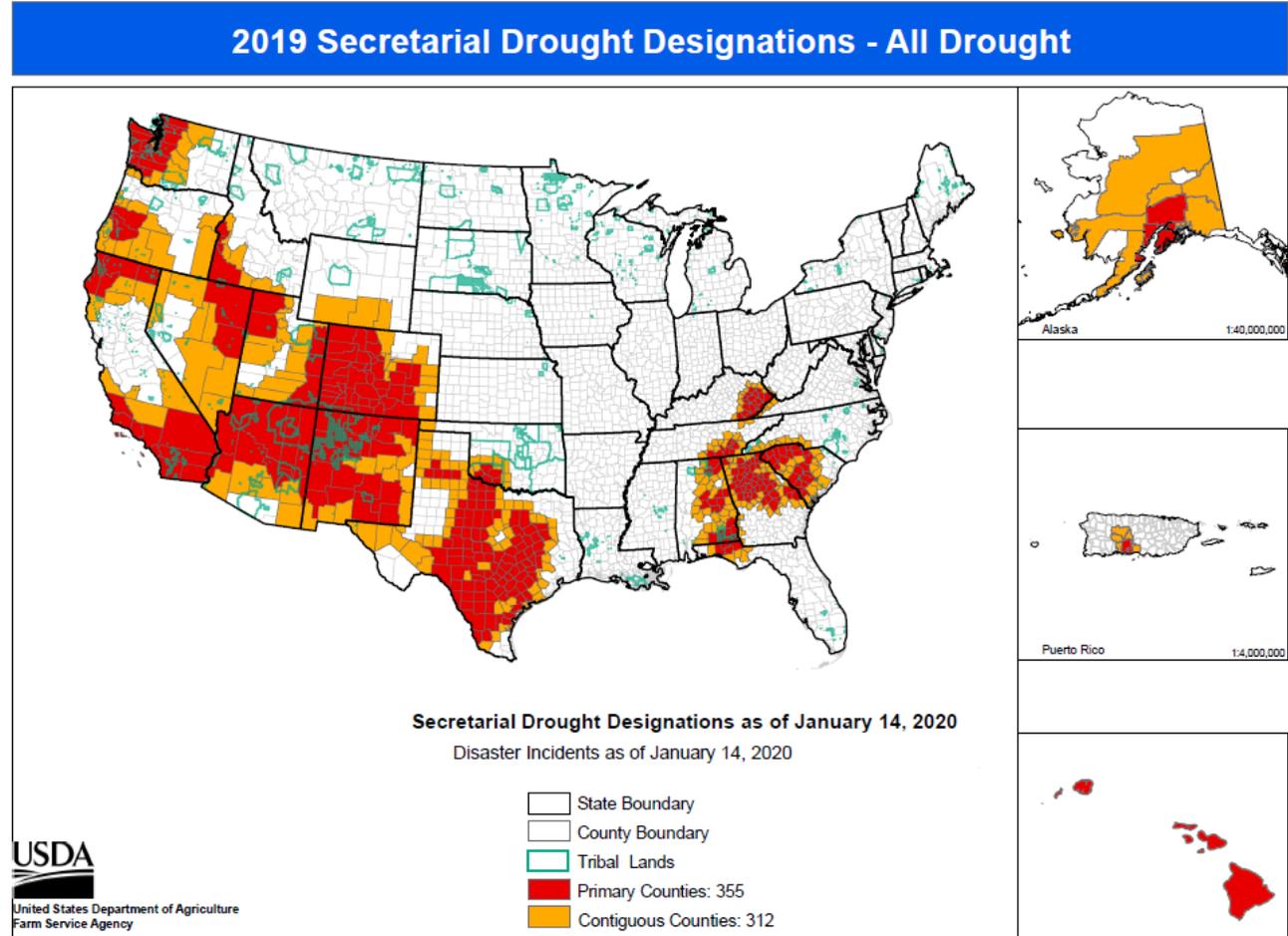
- Fast track and regular Secretarial disaster designations:
  - trigger availability of FSA Emergency Loans (EM)
  - may be used for eligibility for future ad hoc disaster assistance programs

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

Maps of Secretarial Disaster Designations for Drought in PDF File Format by Crop Year can be found at:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/disaster-designation-information/index>

# Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger



# (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits.

# (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.
- Contracts are between 10 and 15 years.

# (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- Producers are eligible for CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing if any portion of the county is designated as level “D2 Drought-Severe” according to the U. S. Drought Monitor
- A smaller number of conservation practices are eligible for emergency haying and grazing is reduced if the county is designated as level **D3 (extreme drought)**

# (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- County can also be eligible based on COC submitting evidence that the county is suffering from 1 of the following:
  - a 40 percent or greater loss in normal hay and pasture production
  - a natural disaster event that CRP can assist in the response and would not cause permanent damage to the established cover

# (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- STC:
  - designation for emergency grazing may be for up to 90 calendar days, not to exceed September 30
  - May authorize one 30-calendar day extension of emergency grazing, not to exceed September 30
  - Designation for emergency haying may be for up to 60 calendar days, not to exceed August 31 with no extensions

# Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Drought Triggers

- ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

# Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Drought Triggers

For ECP purposes, severe drought conditions exist when available water from sources currently being used for livestock, orchards or vineyard irrigation have been reduced below normal and survival is unlikely without additional water

# Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Drought Triggers

- One requirement for ECP implementation for drought is that the county precipitation levels indicate an average of 40 percent or greater loss of normal precipitation for the 4 most recent months, plus the days in the current month before the request

Note: Arid areas relying on snowpack, in addition to recurring precipitation, for surface water supplies can provide applicable snowpack data.

# Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Drought Triggers

- The precipitation data collection requirement may be waived if the county has been designated as level “D<sub>3</sub> Drought-Extreme” according to the U.S. Drought Monitor

# Questions

