

Drought Help through NRCS programs

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Historically speaking we have been there from the beginning...

Soil Conservation Service now NRCS was founded as a result of extreme drought.

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to cope with drought across the nation.

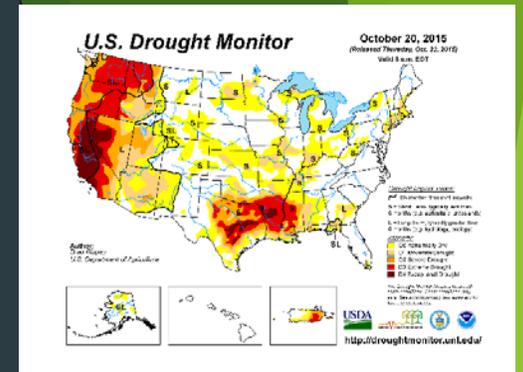
Program Funding for drought and how it works-

1. Advanced preparation through technical assistance.
 - a. Field office personnel work with producers daily to mentor them in preparing for a drought situation, specific drought funds are not necessary to address current drought concerns. We can address these concerns through regular Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding.

If we do get "drought" funds there are really two opportunities for funding.
2. Emergency Drought Assistance Funding
 - U.S. Drought Monitoring and a declaration by the Secretary of Agriculture
 - I. Types of Funding
 - a. Additional EQIP program funding to assist with the major drought resource concern
 - **Insufficient Water, Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water**
 - b. Emergency Conservation Program - Funded through the Farm Service Agency but NRCS provides technical assistance.



Drought Financial Assistance continued...



2. Emergency Drought Assistance Funding

- a. Additional EQIP program funding to assist with the major drought resource concern - **Insufficient Water, Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water**

-typical practices requested in a drought situation-

Pond, Livestock Watering Facilities, Water Wells, Pipeline, Improved Irrigation Efficiency

- b. Emergency Conservation Program - Funded through the Farm Service Agency and NRCS provides technical assistance.

- Providing water for livestock during periods of severe drought (Ponds, wells, pipelines)

Emergency Disaster Designation and Declaration Process Fact Sheet

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2015_disaster_assistance_prog.pdf

What Drought Funding looked like in 2012 and 2013

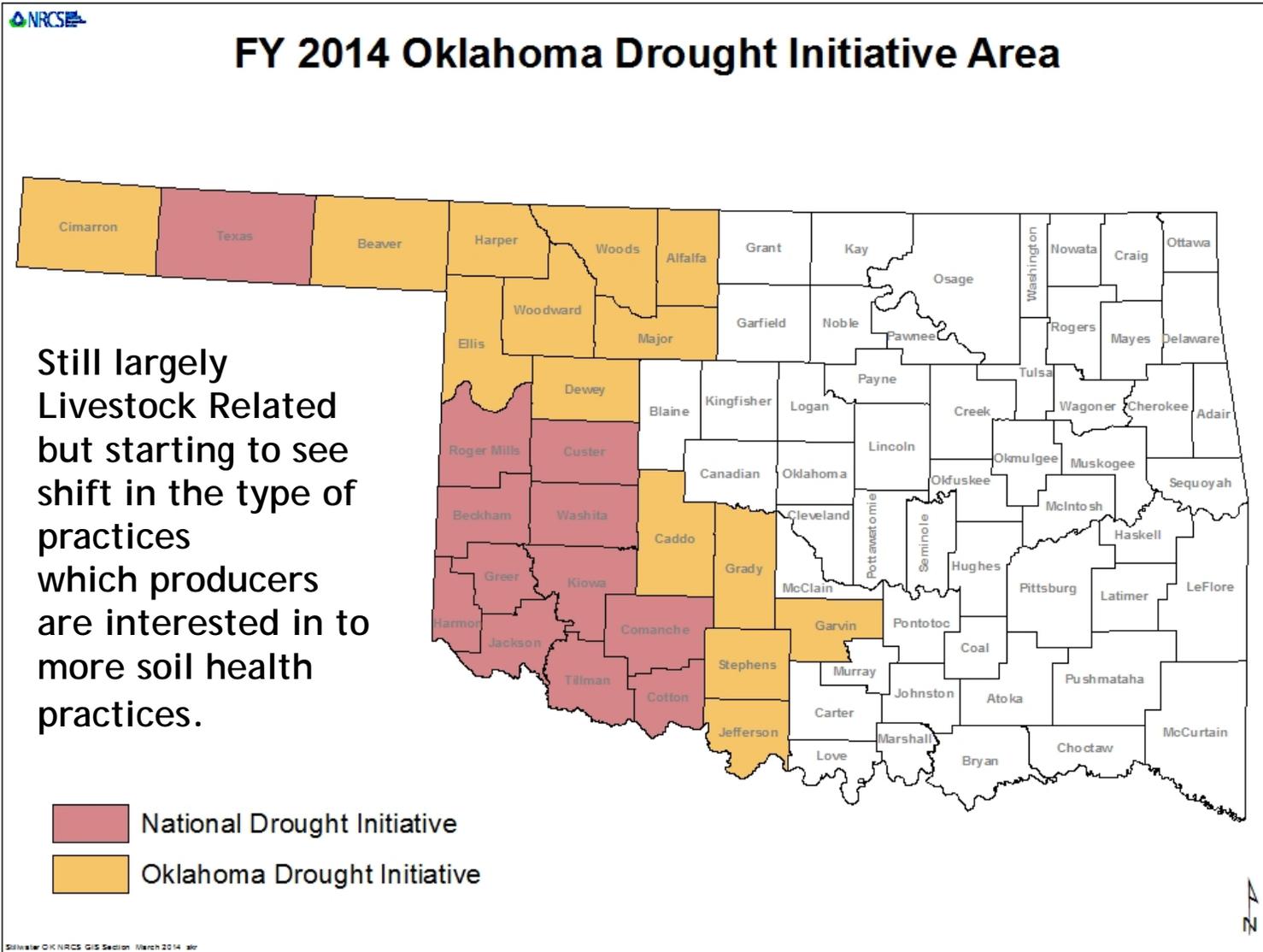
-Basically State Driven State Funded Initiative-

- ▶ 2012 Numerous Counties had developed Local Emphasis Areas for drought.
- ▶ \$290,000 Drought Recovery Funds were obligated
- ▶ 2013 Drought Mitigation Statewide Initiative Set up
- ▶ \$400,000 in Drought Recovery Funds Obligated

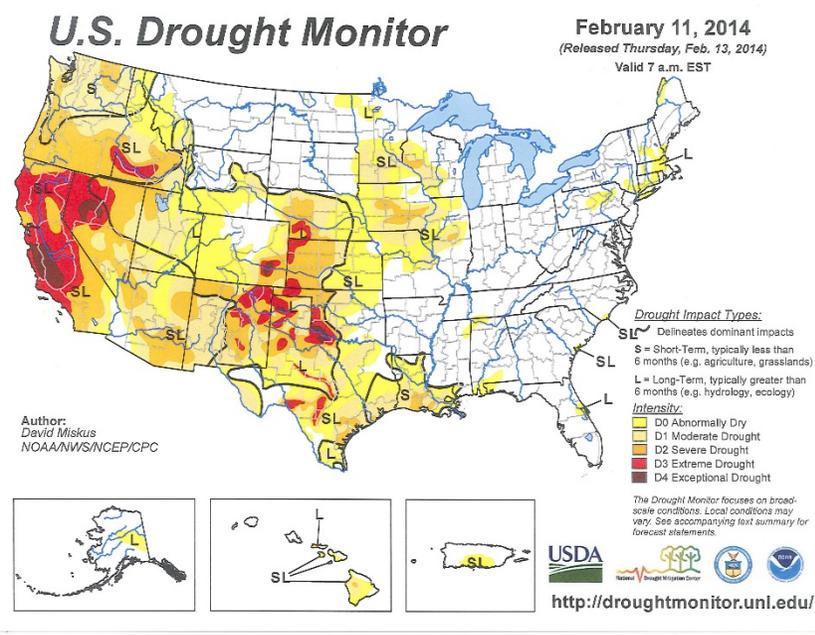
Practices were mainly livestock related-
Water Well, Watering Facility, Pipeline, Pond



2014 Drought Initiative Combination of National and State Funds

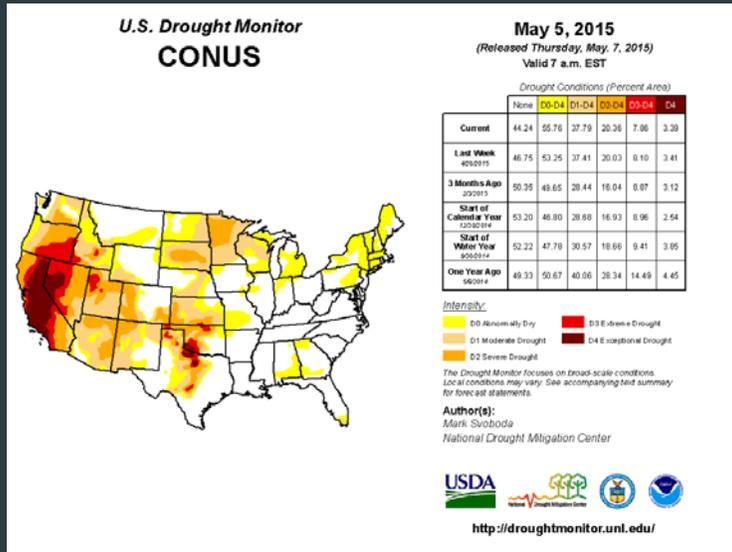


Still largely Livestock Related but starting to see shift in the type of practices which producers are interested in to more soil health practices.

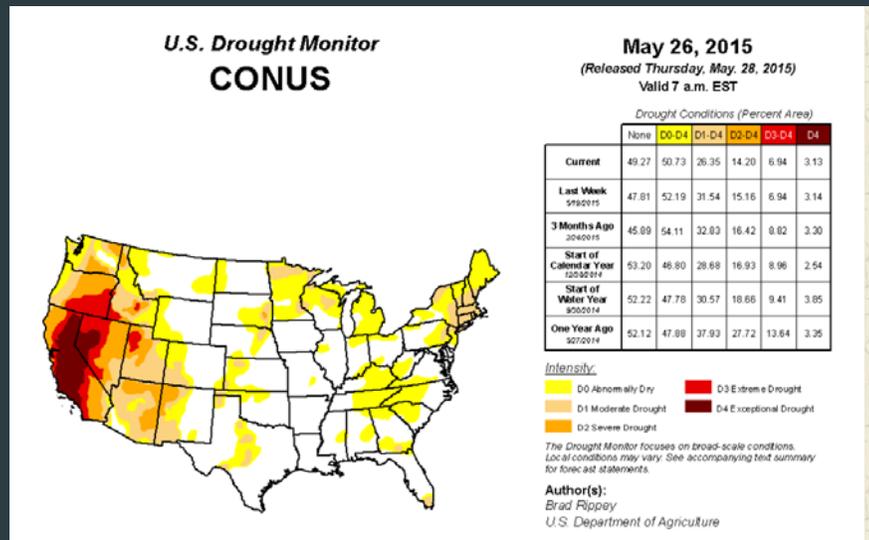
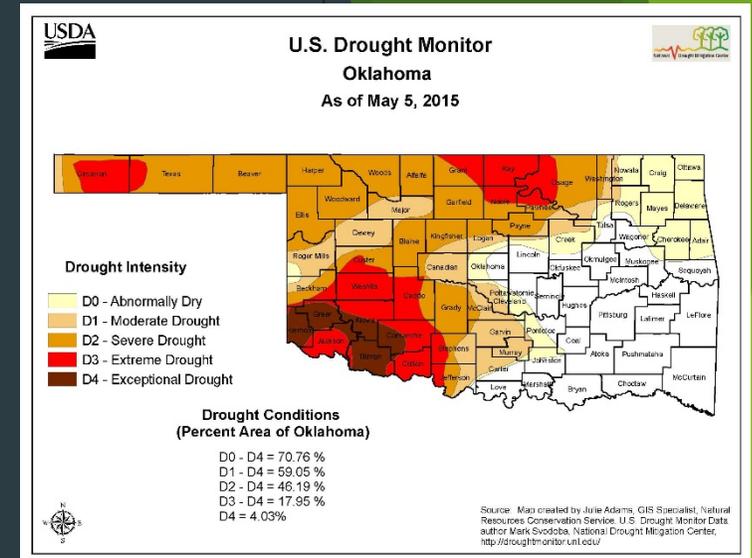


- Above- Feb 11 2014 US Drought Monitor Map
- Oklahoma Map for 2014 Drought Initiative.
- National Funding for D3 and D4 counties and state added funding for original 2013 drought state initiative.
- 2014 \$860,000 Disaster Recovery Drought

2015 National Initiative for Drought Released then major rains came.



- ▶ Left - US Drought Monitor Map for May 5, 2015 Drought Initiative
- ▶ Right-Oklahoma Drought Map 2015
- ▶ Funds are allocated to those areas with D3 and D4 Drought designations.
- ▶ 2015 \$1,077,000 Drought Recovery



- ▶ Funds came late in the year.
- ▶ End of the Month Drought was no longer an issue.
- ▶ Switched gears to Water Conservation in order to keep funds in the state. Promoted complete soil health systems in those D3 and D4 counties.
- ▶ Interest in livestock watering facilities for those D3 and D4 counties were already being funded at the local level or not needed due to rain.

Funding Opportunities through EQIP

- It is not necessary to wait for drought funding in order to get funding for drought related practices. Insufficient Water and Inadequate Livestock water are a priority in most counties across the state and can be addressed with regular EQIP funds.
- You can sign up for EQIP funding anytime but the cutoff to be considered for the 2016 Funding Cycle is November 20, 2015.
- EQIP is a financial assistance program (you will have out of pocket expenses) should you received funding.
- Best tool for information on EQIP and a successful EQIP contract is a working relationship with your local District Conservationist.

QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Handout for EQIP Program Requirements and How to get Started.

My Advice for Producers interested in obtaining EQIP funding:

- ▶ Educate yourself on the program and the requirements of the program.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ok/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs142p2_000353

- ▶ Always read the appendix to your contract before you sign so you know what it expected.
- ▶ Keep the lines of communication open with you local field office. When you receive a letter in the mail respond to that letter. If you received a call from us return those phone calls. Good communication with your local field office is essential to success.