

“The USDM and Agricultural Drought Disaster Assistance” Brad Rippey, USDA Meteorologist, Washington, D.C.



**Tenth U.S. Drought Monitor Forum
Keystone, South Dakota, April 3 – 5, 2017**



Primary Uses of the U.S. Drought Monitor for Agricultural Drought Assistance

- **1. Declaration of a primary drought disaster area.** This usage came into existence during the Drought of 2012 and is called the “fast-track” process. The governor of each state/territory still retains the ability to request a drought declaration, pending approval by the Secretary of Agriculture. This type of secretarial declaration leads to the availability of **low-interest loans**, to help producers affected by drought. (Note: contiguous counties also qualify for assistance, per federal law.)
- **2. Payments under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).** **Payments** are determined by the size of the livestock operation, the type of forage, and the severity of the drought. This usage came into existence with the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill and was re-enacted, with modifications, in the 2014 Farm Bill. For more information, see: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>

“Fast Track” Secretarial Disaster Designation Process

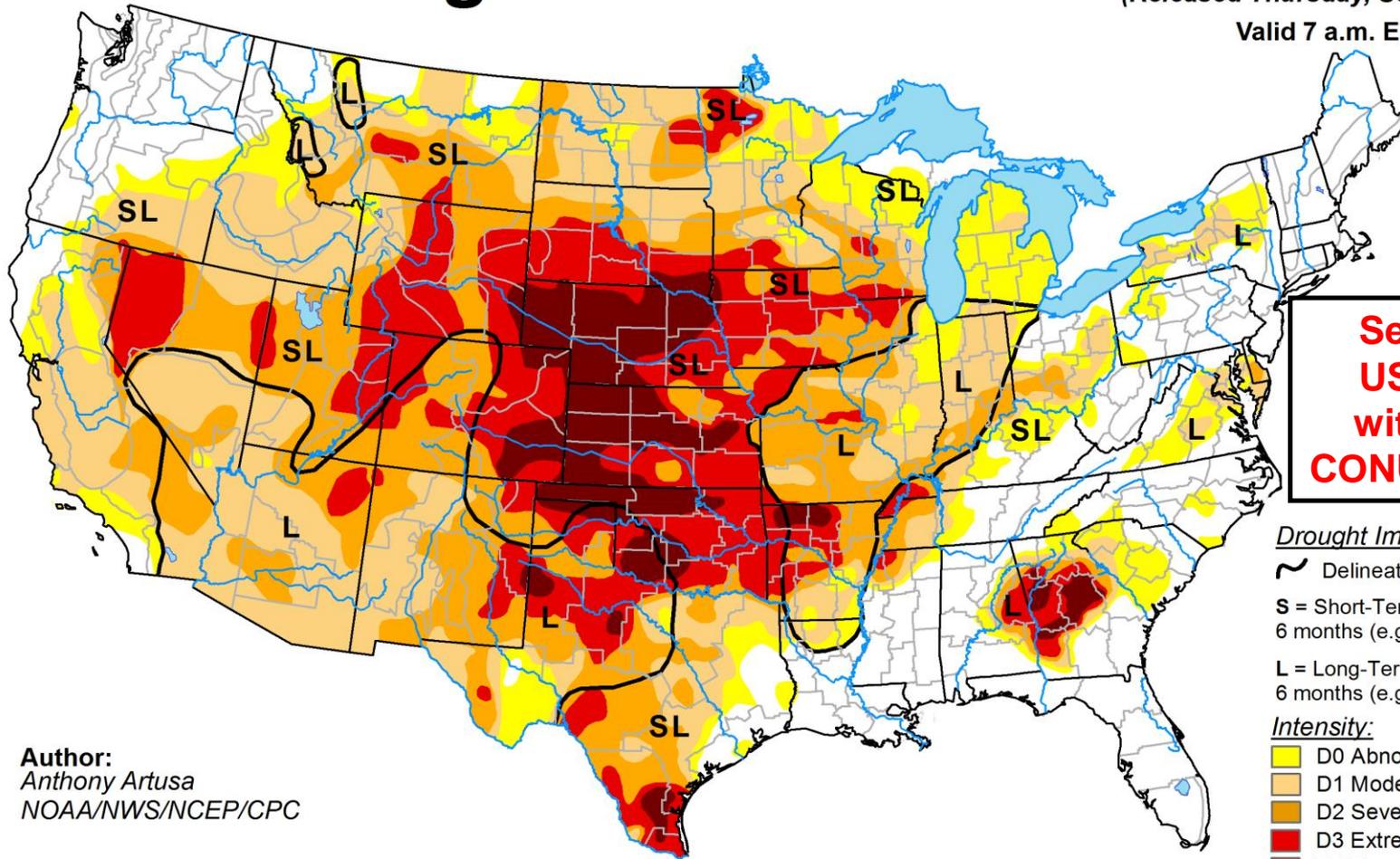
- The streamlined process provides for nearly an automatic designation for any county in which drought conditions, as reported in the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), when any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks. A county that has a portion of its area in a drought intensity value of D3 (Extreme Drought) or higher at any time during the growing season also would be designated as a disaster area.



U.S. Drought Monitor

September 25, 2012
(Released Thursday, Sep. 27, 2012)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Sep. 25, 2012:
USDM record,
with 65.45% of
CONUS in drought.**

Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

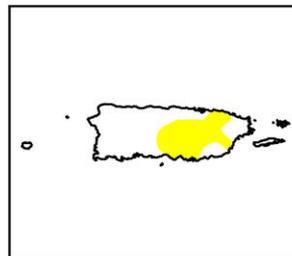
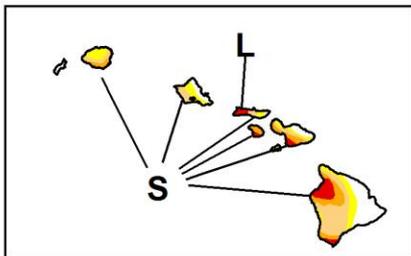
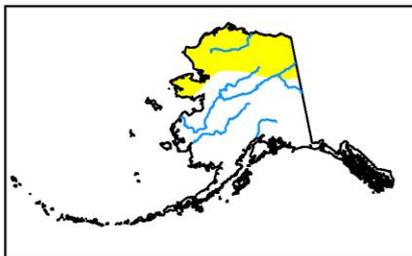
Drought Impact Types:

-  Delineates dominant impacts
- S** = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L** = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

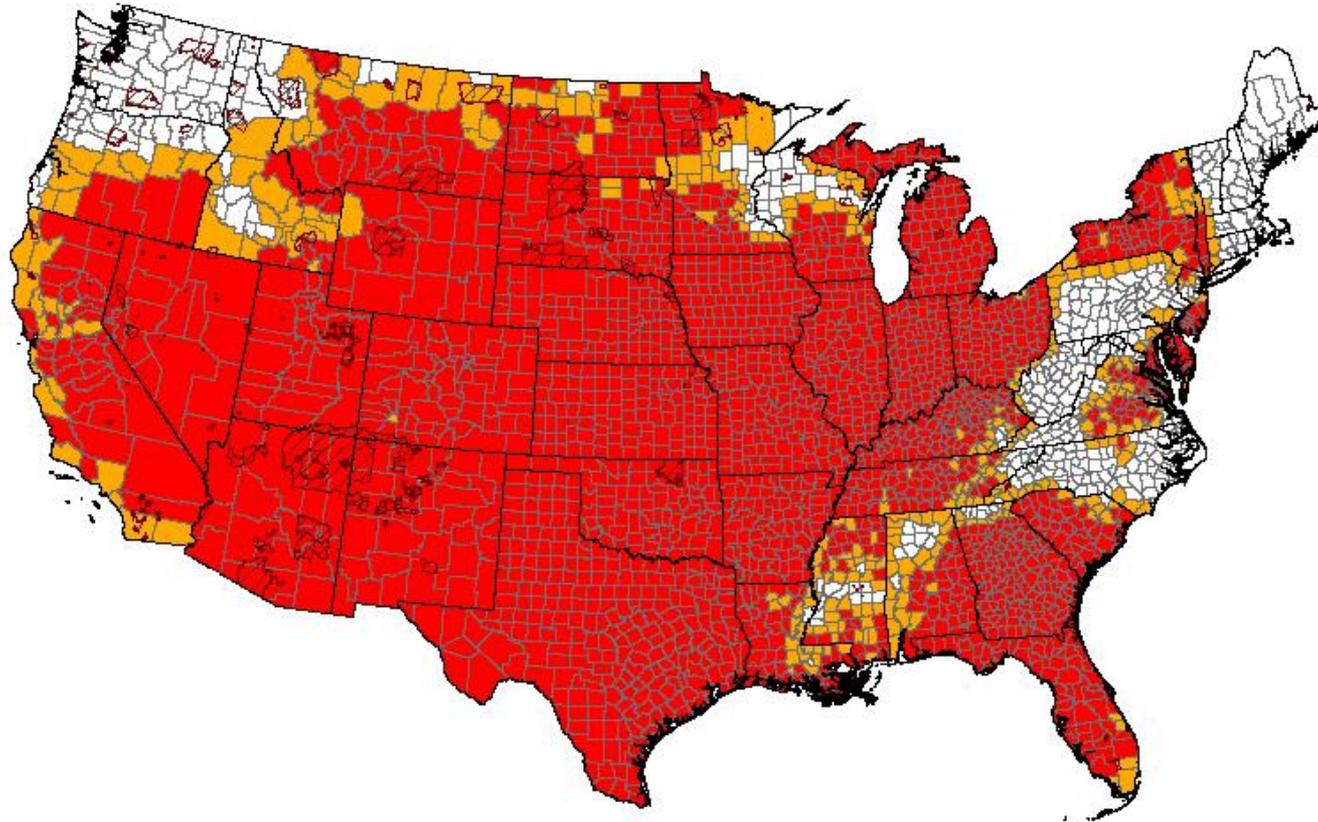
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

2012 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



All Drought Disaster Incidents as of 2/13/2013

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  Primary Counties: 2,254
-  Contiguous Counties: 374



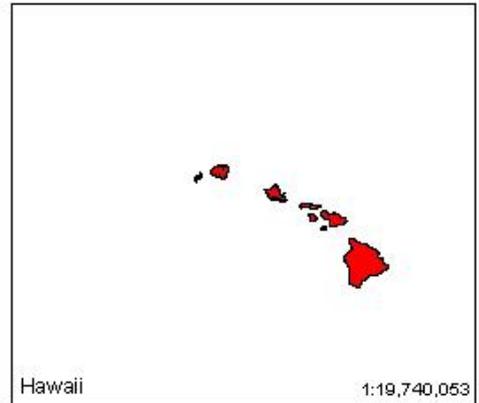
USDA Farm Service Agency
Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division
Washington, D.C.
February 13, 2013

1:23,520,203



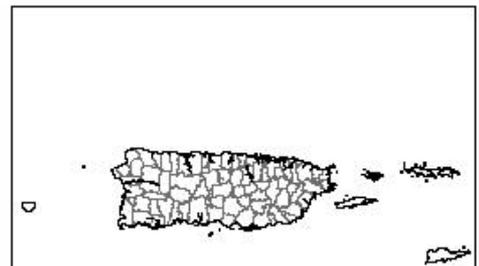
Alaska

1:58,102,399



Hawaii

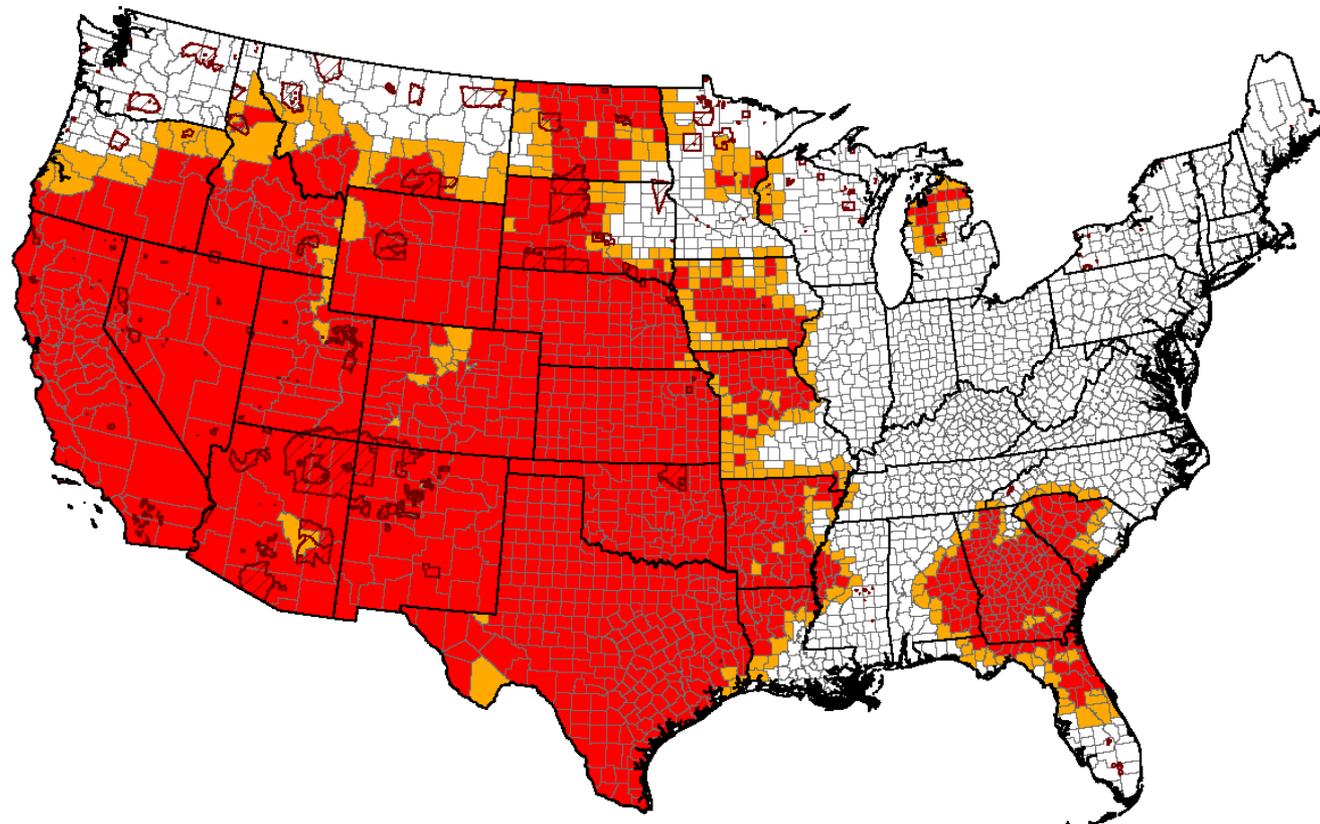
1:19,740,053



Puerto Rico

1:5,592,808

2013 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



All Drought Disaster Incidents as of 4/23/14

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  Primary Counties: 1258
-  Contiguous Counties: 317



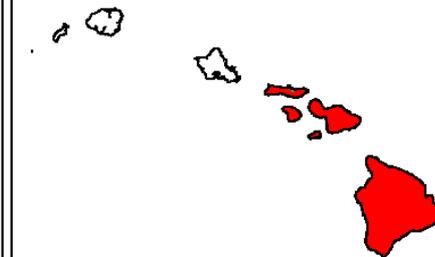
USDA Farm Service Agency
 Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division
 Washington, D.C.
 April 23, 2014

1:23,520,203



Alaska

1:58,102,399



Hawaii

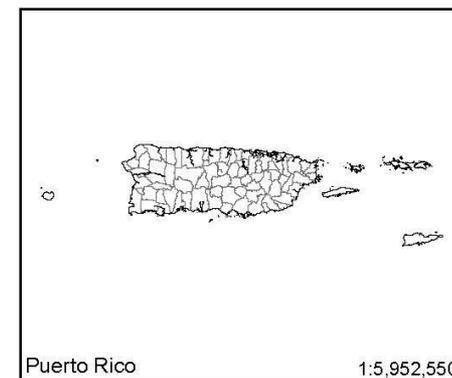
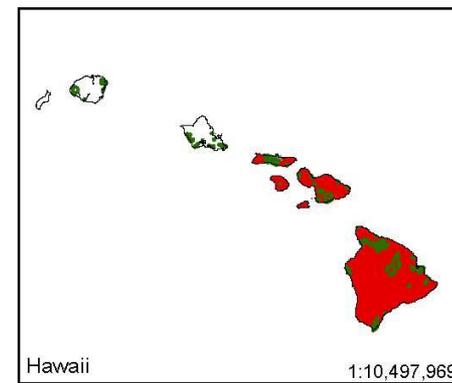
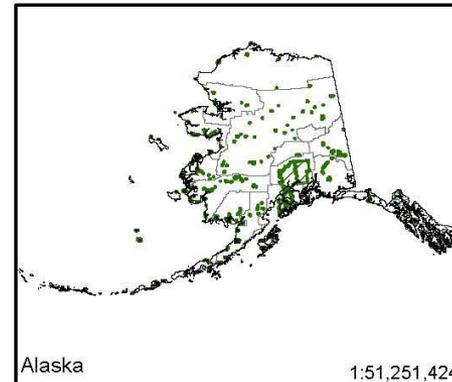
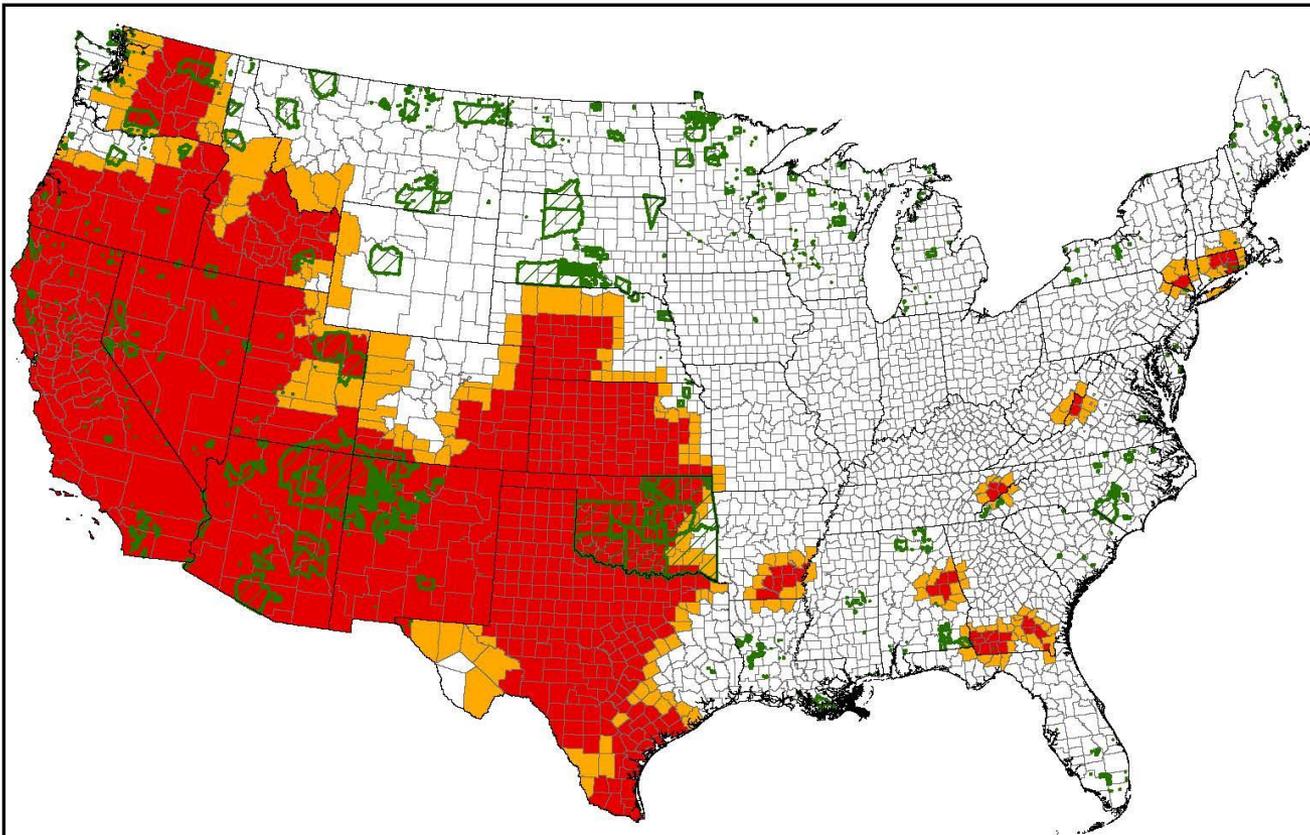
1:19,740,053



Puerto Rico

1:5,592,808

2014 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Secretarial Drought Designations for 2014

Disaster Incidents as of February 25, 2015

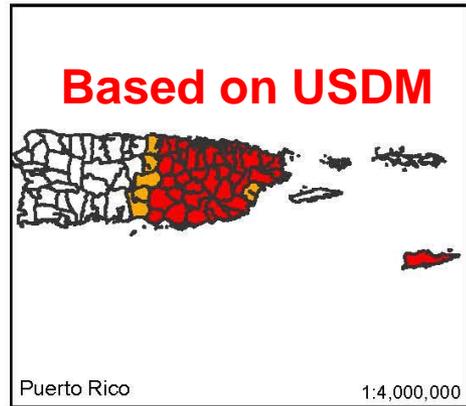
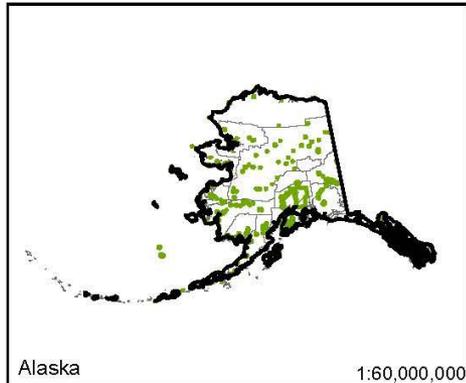
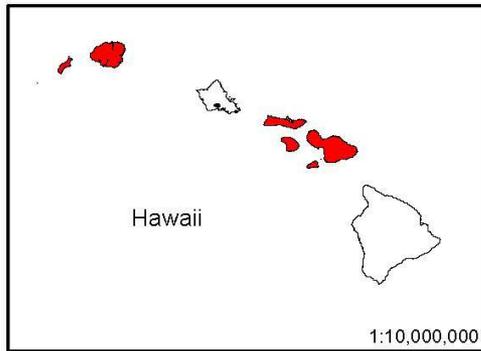
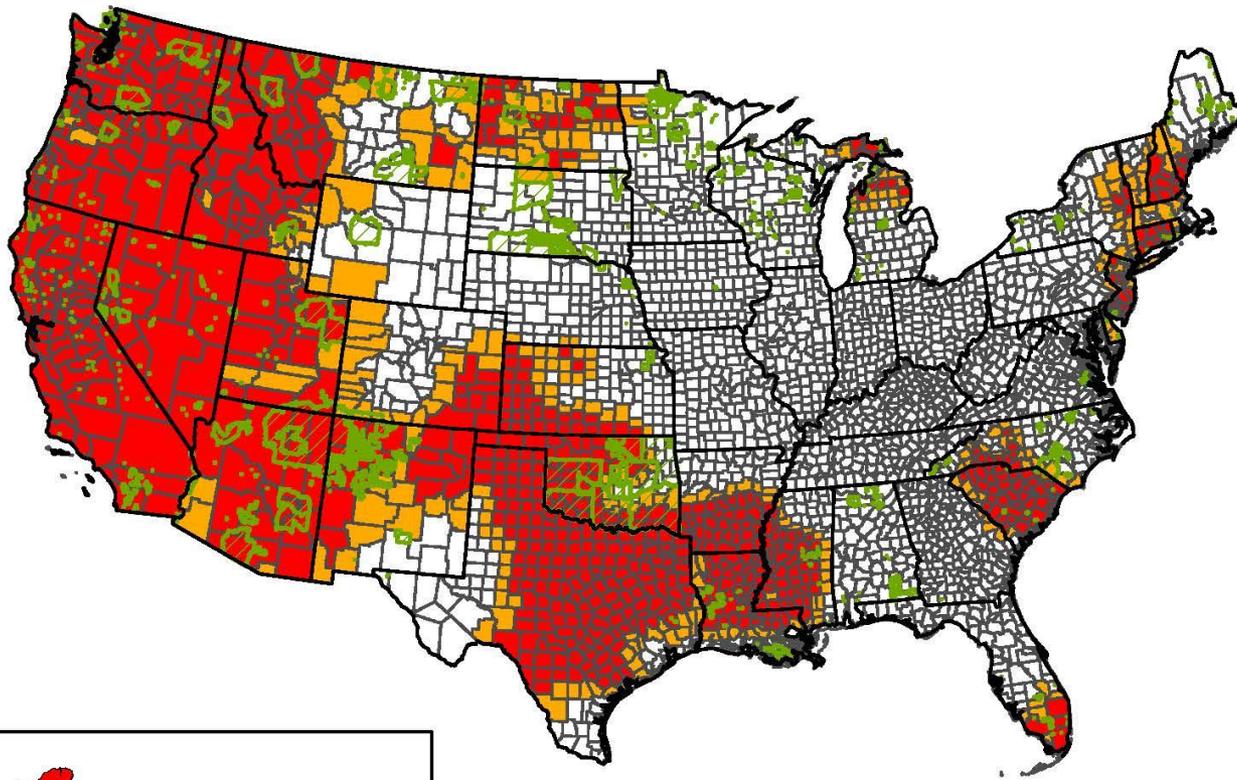
-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  Primary Counties: 592
-  Contiguous Counties: 230



USDA Farm Service Agency
Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division
Washington, D.C.
February 25, 2015

1:23,721,366

2015 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Secretarial Drought Designations for 2015

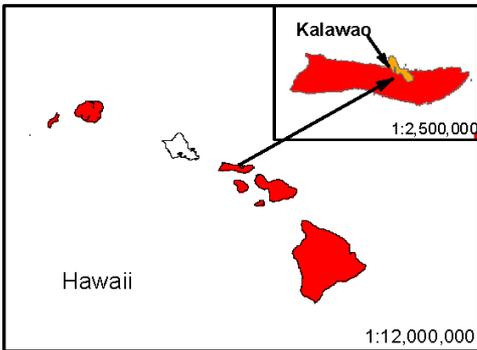
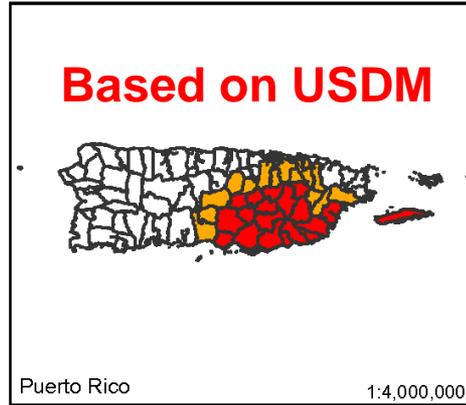
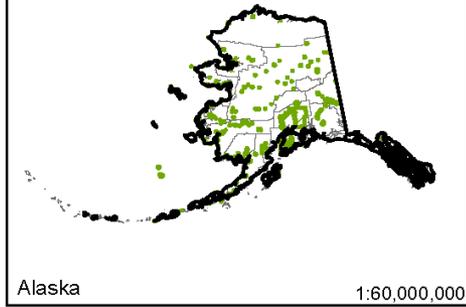
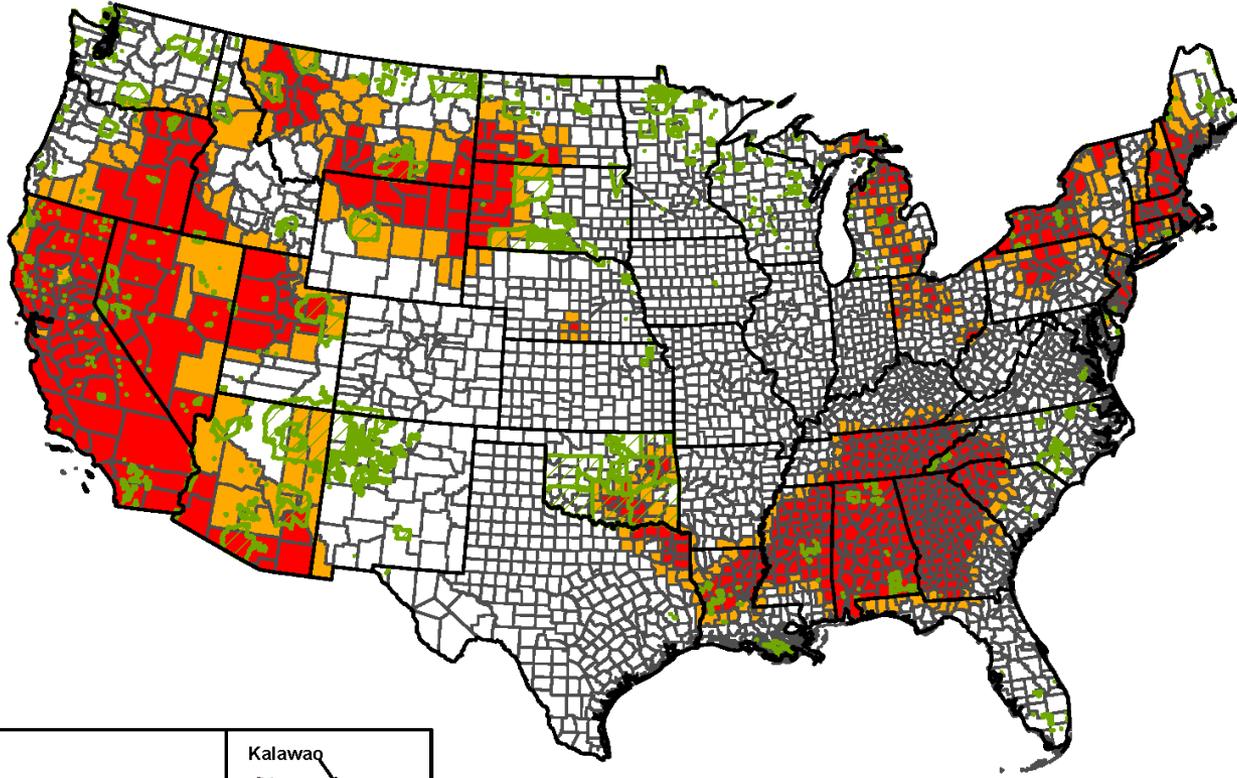
Disaster Incidents as of April 6, 2016

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  Primary Counties: 780
-  Contiguous Counties: 334

USDA Farm Service Agency
 Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division
 Washington, D.C.
 April 6, 2016

1:25,000,000

2016 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought

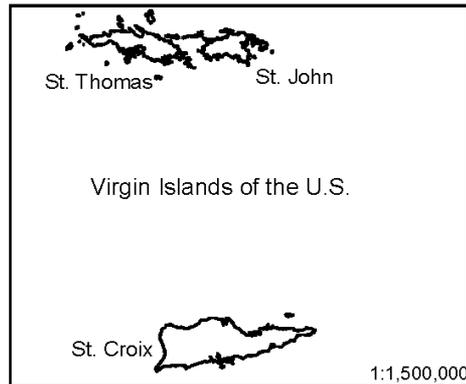


Secretarial Drought Designations for 2016

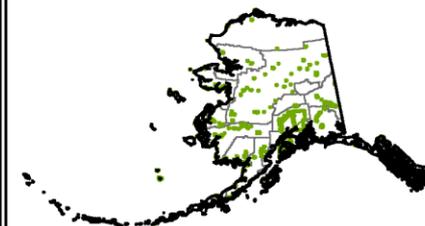
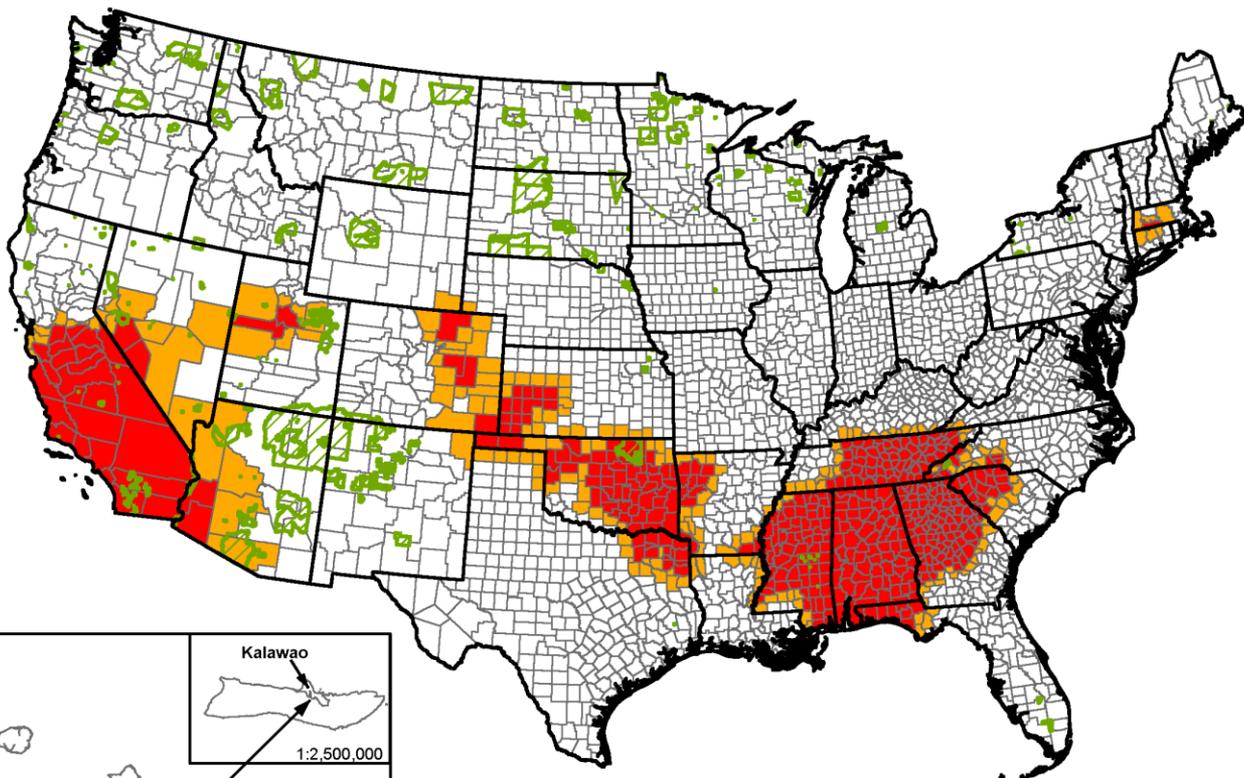
Disaster Incidents as of February 15, 2017

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Tribal Lands
- Primary Counties: 658
- Contiguous Counties: 385

1:25,000,000



2017 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



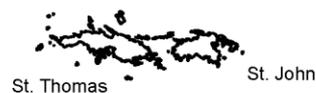
Alaska

1:60,000,000



Puerto Rico

1:4,000,000



St. Thomas

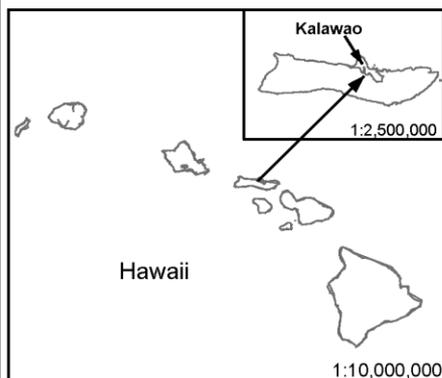
St. John

Virgin Islands of the U.S.



St. Croix

1:1,500,000



Kalawao

1:2,500,000

Hawaii

1:10,000,000

Secretarial Drought Designations for 2017

Disaster Incidents as of March 8, 2017

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  Primary Counties: 464
-  Contiguous Counties: 206

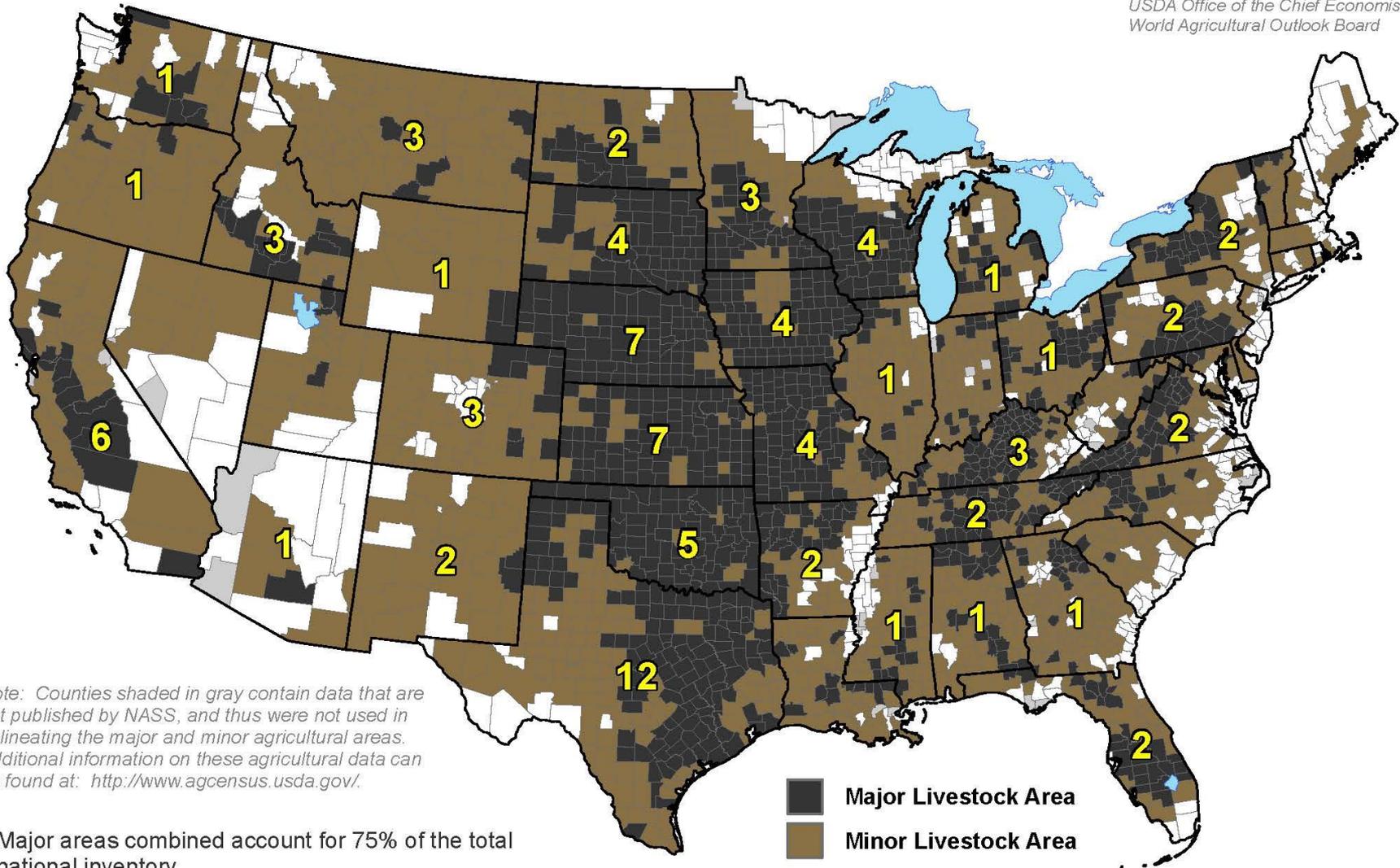
1:25,000,000



USDA Farm Service Agency
 Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division
 Washington, D.C.
 March 8, 2017

United States: Cattle & Calves (All)

*This product was prepared by the
USDA Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board*



Note: Counties shaded in gray contain data that are not published by NASS, and thus were not used in delineating the major and minor agricultural areas. Additional information on these agricultural data can be found at: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national inventory.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national inventory.
- Major and minor areas and state inventory percentages are derived from NASS 2012 Census of Agriculture data.

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national inventory. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.

Uses of U.S. Drought Monitor for Agricultural Drought Assistance

- USDM was a one-time trigger for drought relief in 2002-03 (non-fat dry milk) and 2006 (grants).
- During the drought of 2012, expanded use of the USDM opened conservation land to grazing.
- Regarding direct payments, primary use has been for U.S. livestock producers through the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).
 - LFP was initiated by the 2008 Farm Bill but expired on September 30, 2011.
 - LFP was renewed and enhanced by the 2014 Farm Bill, bridging the gap between 2011 and 2014.



Previous U.S. Drought Monitor Usage by FSA:

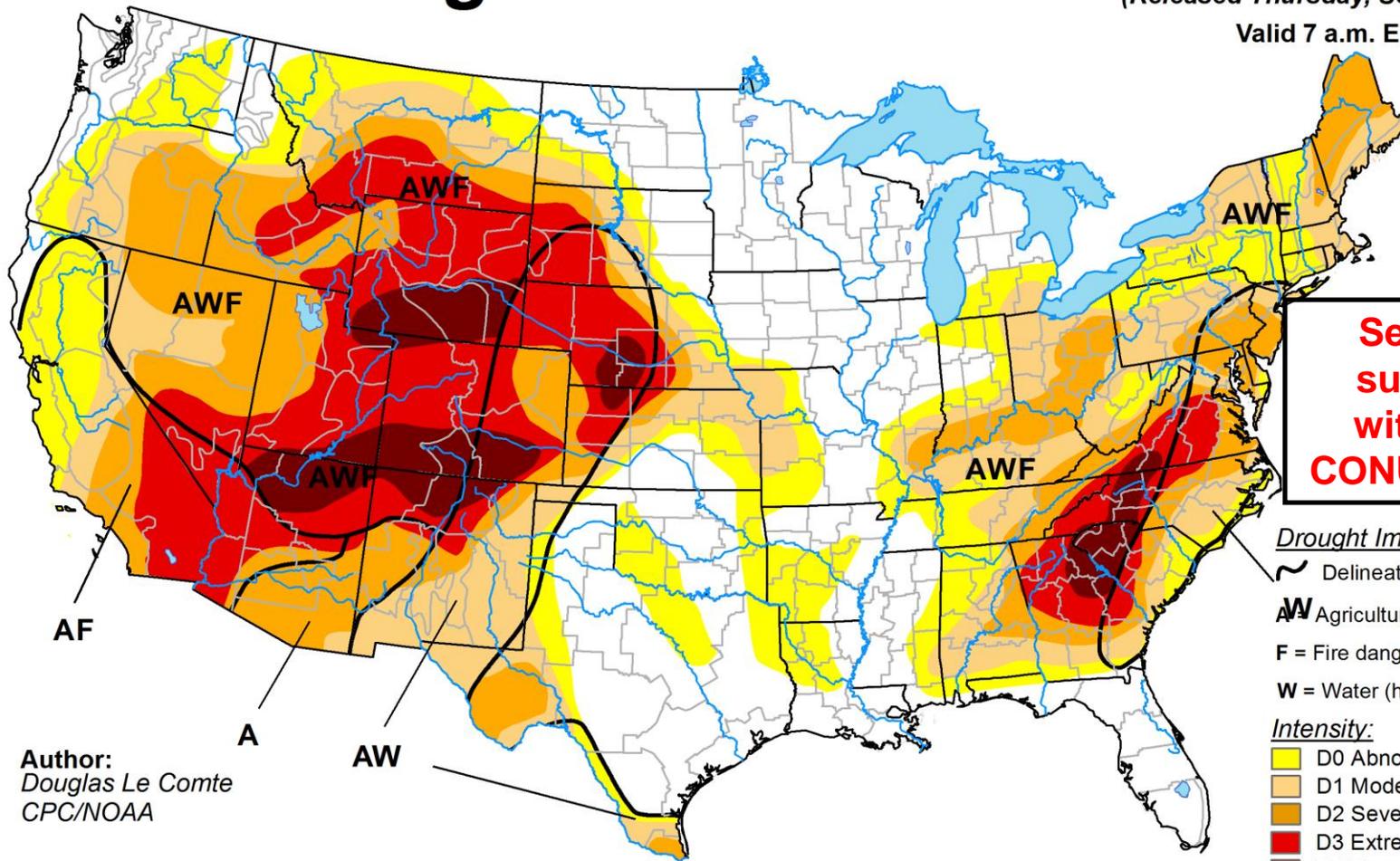
- **2003 Surplus Non-fat Dry Milk (NDM) Sales for Feed Program – Producers in counties must have met one of the two following criteria to be eligible:**
 - **County was included in D4 as determined on March 13, 2003**
 - **County has been located in D4 at any time between September 1, 2002, and March 13, 2003, and was located in a D3 category on March 13, 2003.**

- **2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program – \$50 Million in state block grants - County must have experienced D3 or D4 during March 7, 2006, to August 31, 2006.**

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2002
 (Released Thursday, Sep. 12, 2002)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

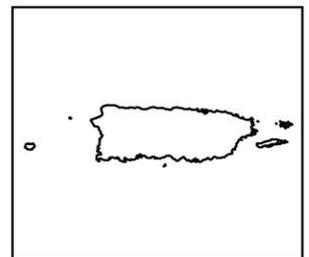
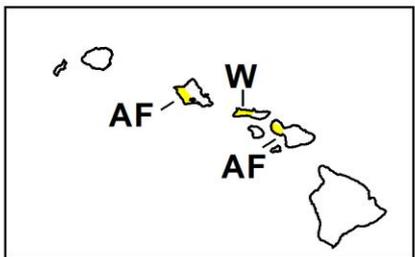
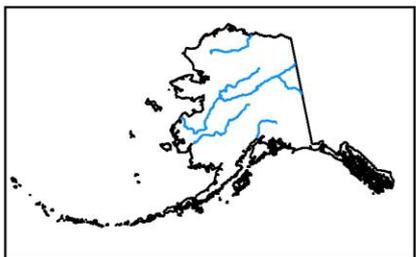


**Sep. 10, 2002:
 summer peak,
 with 54.63% of
 CONUS in drought.**

- Drought Impact Types:
- Delineates dominant impacts
 - AW** Agricultural
 - F** = Fire danger
 - W** = Water (hydrological)
- Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Moderate Drought
 - D2 Severe Drought
 - D3 Extreme Drought
 - D4 Exceptional Drought

Author:
 Douglas Le Comte
 CPC/NOAA

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



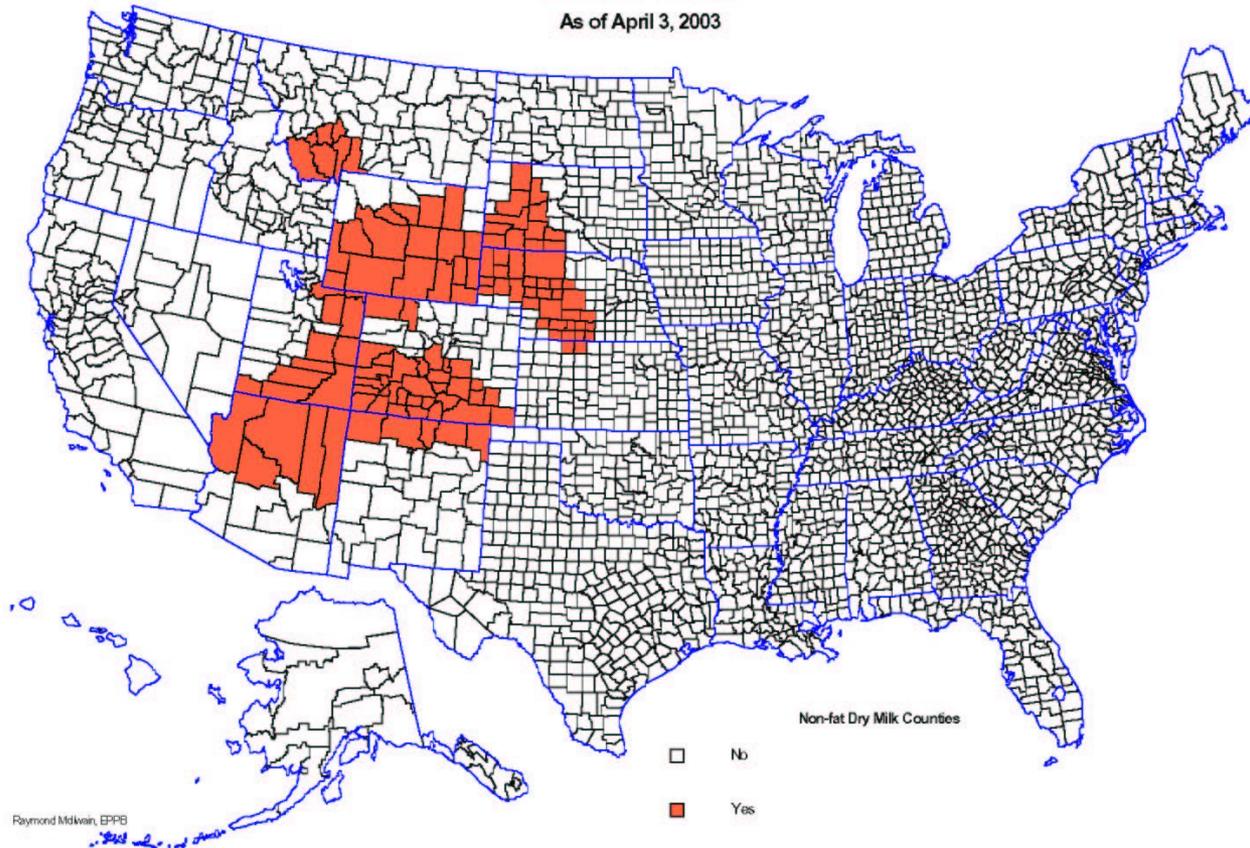
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

NDM Counties Approved, April 3, 2003

NON-FAT DRY MILK PROGRAM

Counties APPROVED

As of April 3, 2003



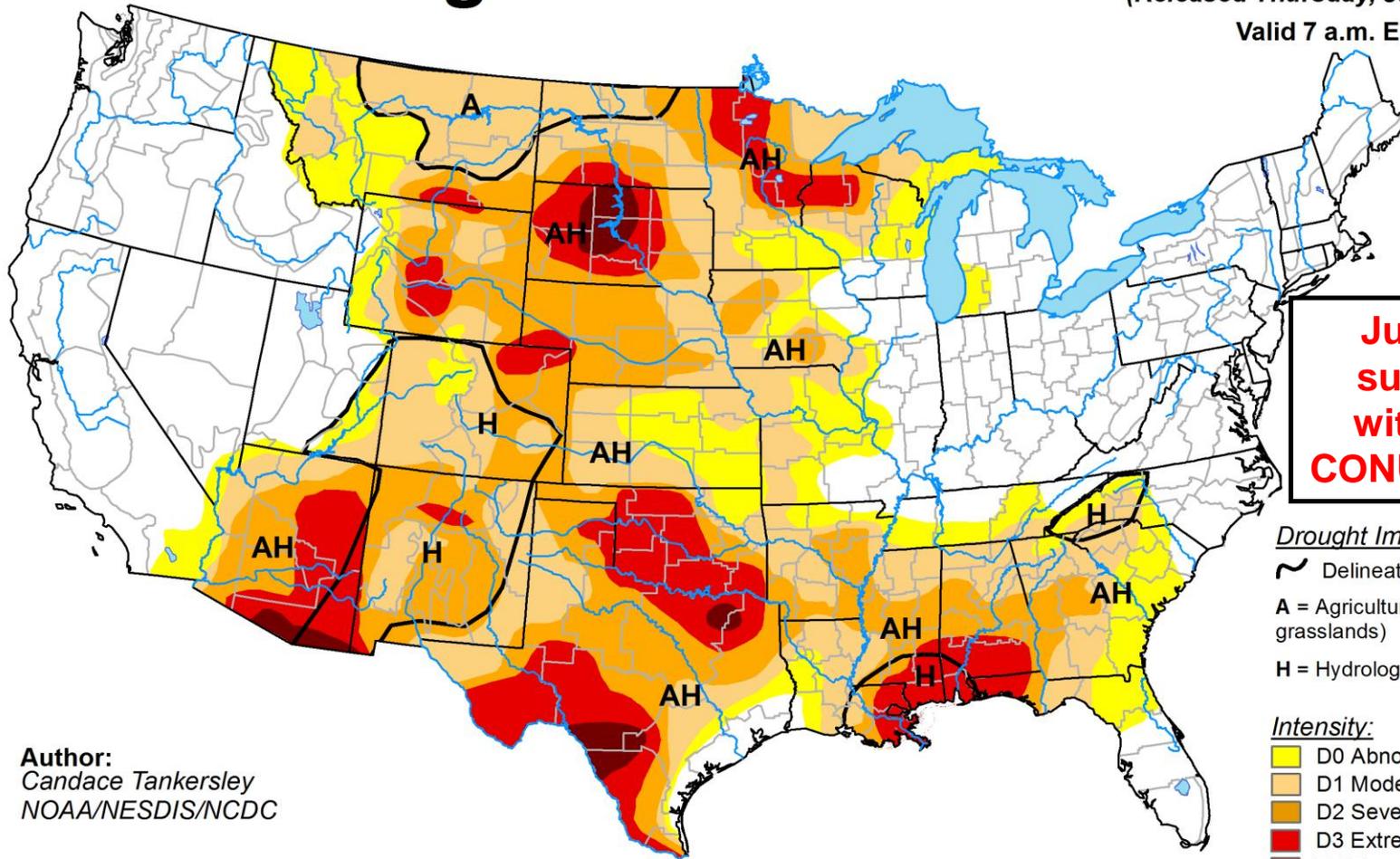
Raymond Mckean, EPPB

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 25, 2006

(Released Thursday, Jul. 27, 2006)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



**July 25, 2006:
summer peak,
with 49.95% of
CONUS in drought.**

Author:
Candace Tankersley
NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

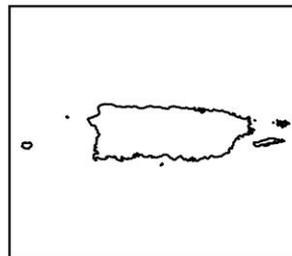
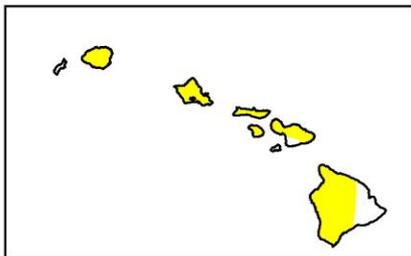
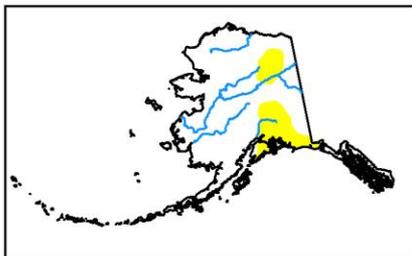
Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

Intensity:

- Yellow: D0 Abnormally Dry
- Light Orange: D1 Moderate Drought
- Orange: D2 Severe Drought
- Red: D3 Extreme Drought
- Dark Red: D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

- The popular Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) was enacted by the 2008 Farm Bill, and re-enacted by the 2014 Farm Bill. LFP replaced a patchwork disaster assistance program for U.S. livestock producers. Earlier efforts, using the USDM as a payment trigger, were used in 2003 and 2006. Current information on the LFP can be found at: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>



- **U.S. Drought Monitor Usage by FSA**

- **Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (“Farm Bill”) authorizes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**
 - **Grazing loss because of drought on owned or leased grazing land or pastureland that is physically located in a county experiencing:**
 - **D2 intensity for at least 8 consecutive weeks during normal grazing period will be eligible to receive payment equal to 1 monthly payment**
 - **D3 intensity during the normal grazing period will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 2 monthly payments**
 - **D3 intensity for at least 4 weeks or a D4 intensity any time during the grazing period will be eligible to receive a payment equal to 3 monthly payments**

- 2008 “Farm Bill” Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Payouts (financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurred):
 - 2008 calendar year: \$165,540,837
 - 2009 calendar year: \$ 98,739,950
 - 2010 calendar year: \$ 33,334,458
 - 2011 calendar year: \$180,950,088
 - **LFP total, 2008-11: \$478,565,333**

- **U.S. Drought Monitor Usage by FSA**
- **Agricultural Act of 2014 (“Farm Bill”) re-authorizes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**
 - **Grazing loss because of drought on owned or leased grazing land or pastureland that is physically located in a county experiencing:**
 - **D2 intensity for at least 8 consecutive weeks during normal grazing period will be eligible to receive an amount equal to 1 monthly payment**
 - **D3 intensity during the normal grazing period will be eligible to receive an amount equal to 3 monthly payments**
 - **D3 intensity for at least 4 weeks or a D4 intensity any time during the grazing period will be eligible to receive an amount equal to 4 monthly payments**
 - **D4 intensity for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period will be eligible to receive an amount equal to 5 monthly payments**

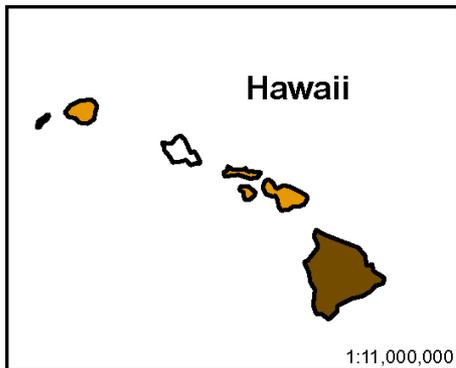
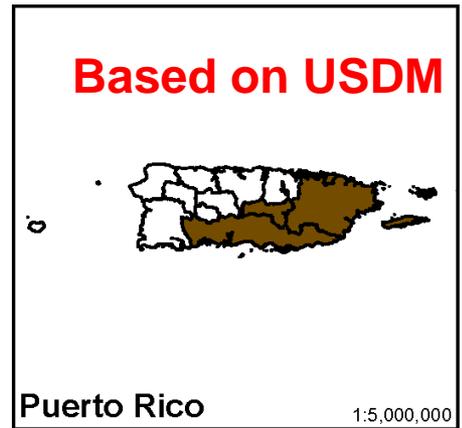
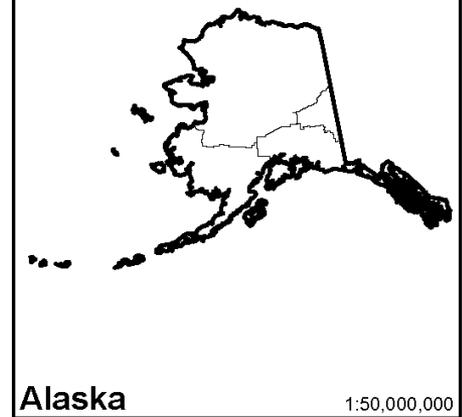
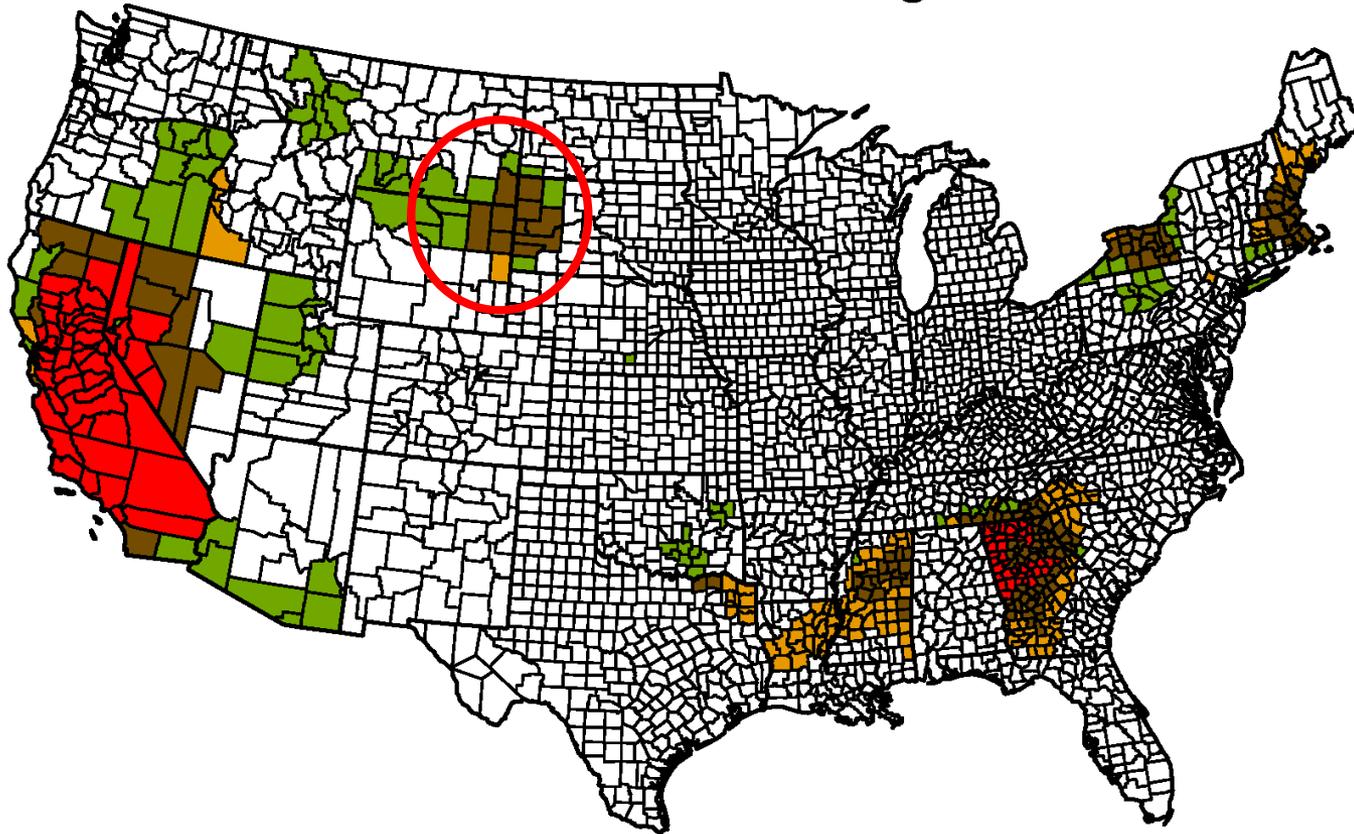
- 2014 “Farm Bill” Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Payouts (financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on or after October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurred):
 - 2011 calendar year: \$ 279,385,590
 - 2012 calendar year: \$2,579,048,343
 - 2013 calendar year: \$1,621,573,768
 - 2014 calendar year: \$ 908,782,296
 - 2015 calendar year: \$ 531,763,126
 - 2016 calendar year: \$ 247,314,535 (updated through 3/2/2017)
 - **LFP total, 2011-16: \$6,167,867,657**

Retroactive LFP Payouts

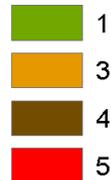
“The 2014 Farm Bill contains permanent livestock disaster programs including the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, which will help producers in California and other areas recover from the drought. At President Obama’s direction, USDA is making implementation of the disaster programs a top priority and plans to have the programs available for sign up in 60 days. **Producers will be able to sign up for the livestock disaster programs for losses not only for 2014 but for losses they experienced in 2012 and 2013.** While these livestock programs took over a year to get assistance out the door under the last Farm Bill, USDA has committed to cut that time by more than 80 percent and begin sign-up in April.”



Livestock Forage Program Native Pasture - 2016 Program Year



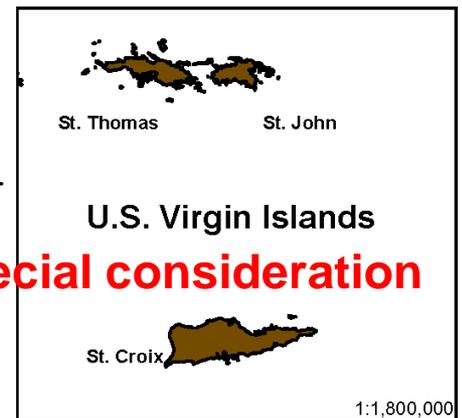
**Eligible County
Payment Months**



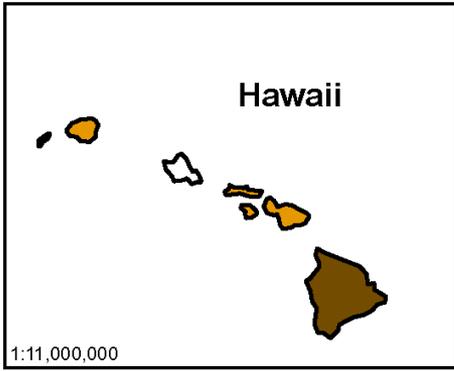
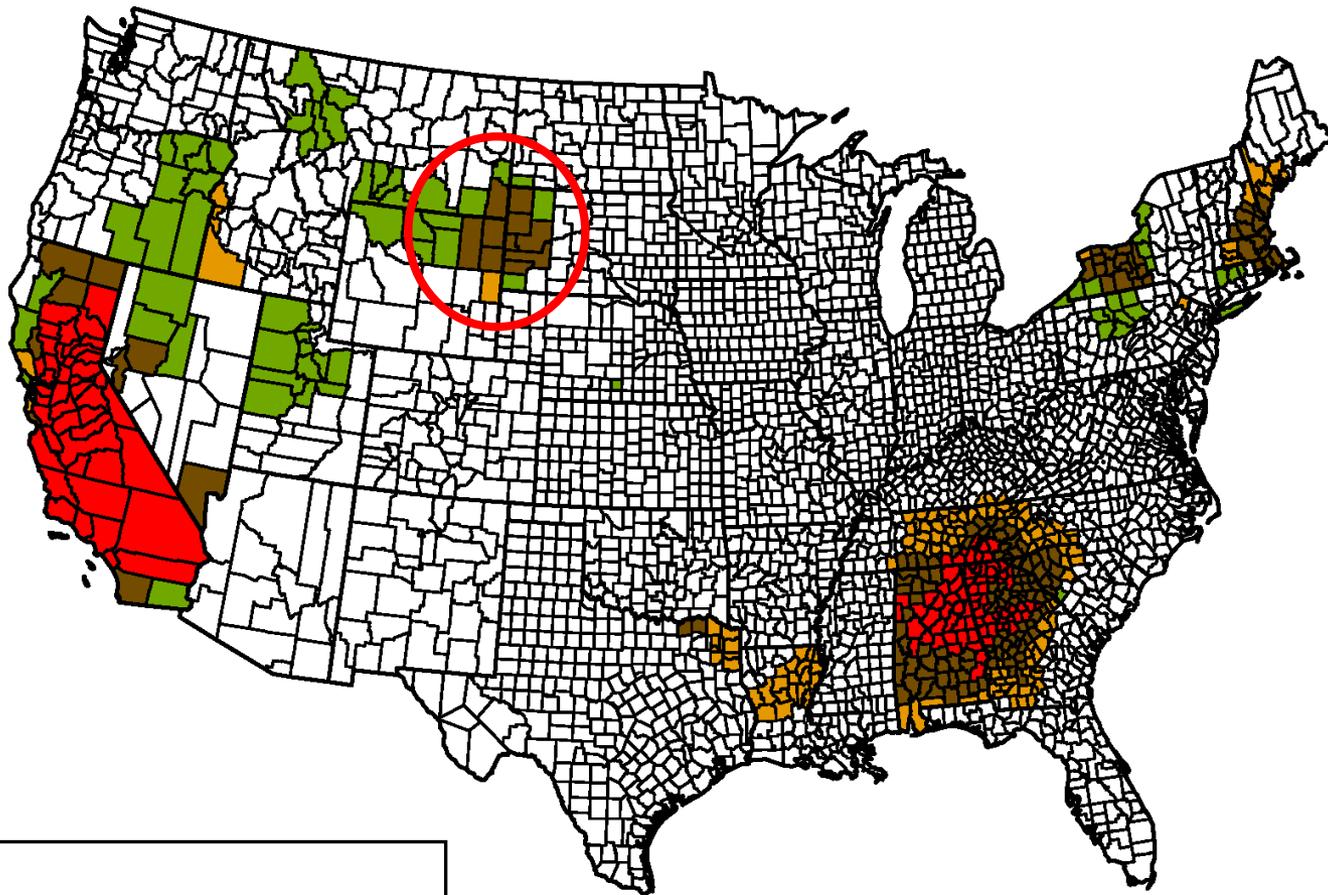
Map Scales Vary
Data Update - 12/29/16



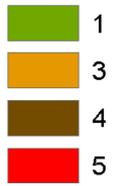
Special consideration



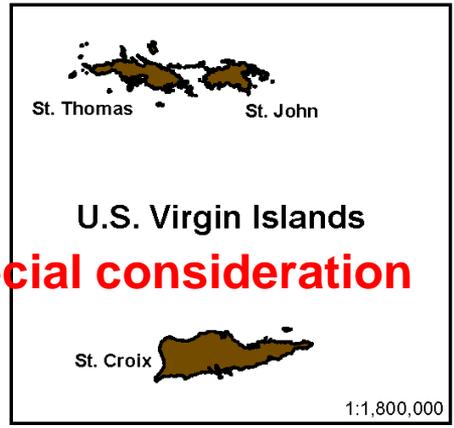
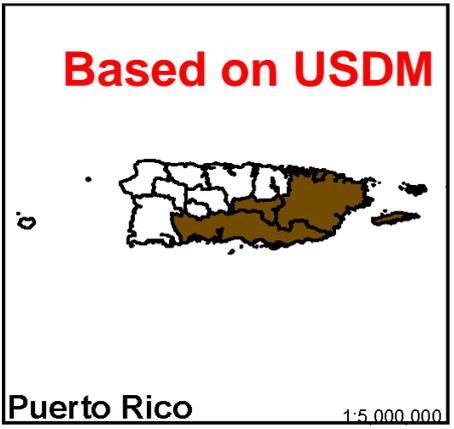
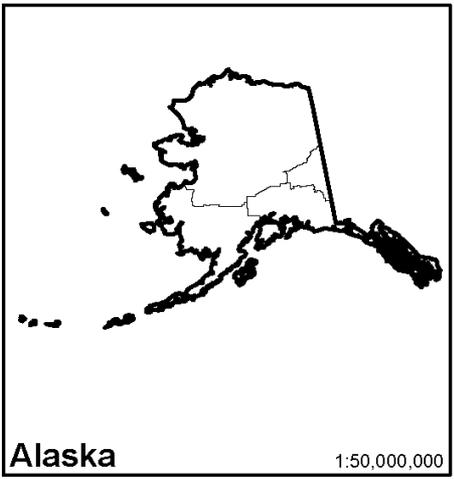
Livestock Forage Program Full Season Improved Pasture - 2016 Program Year



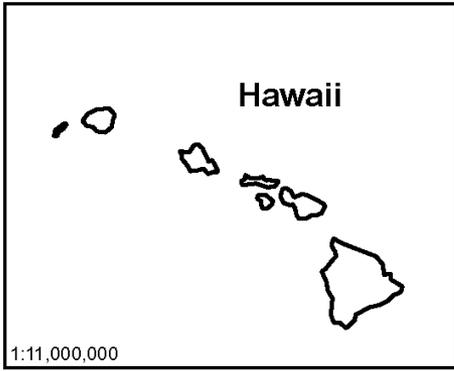
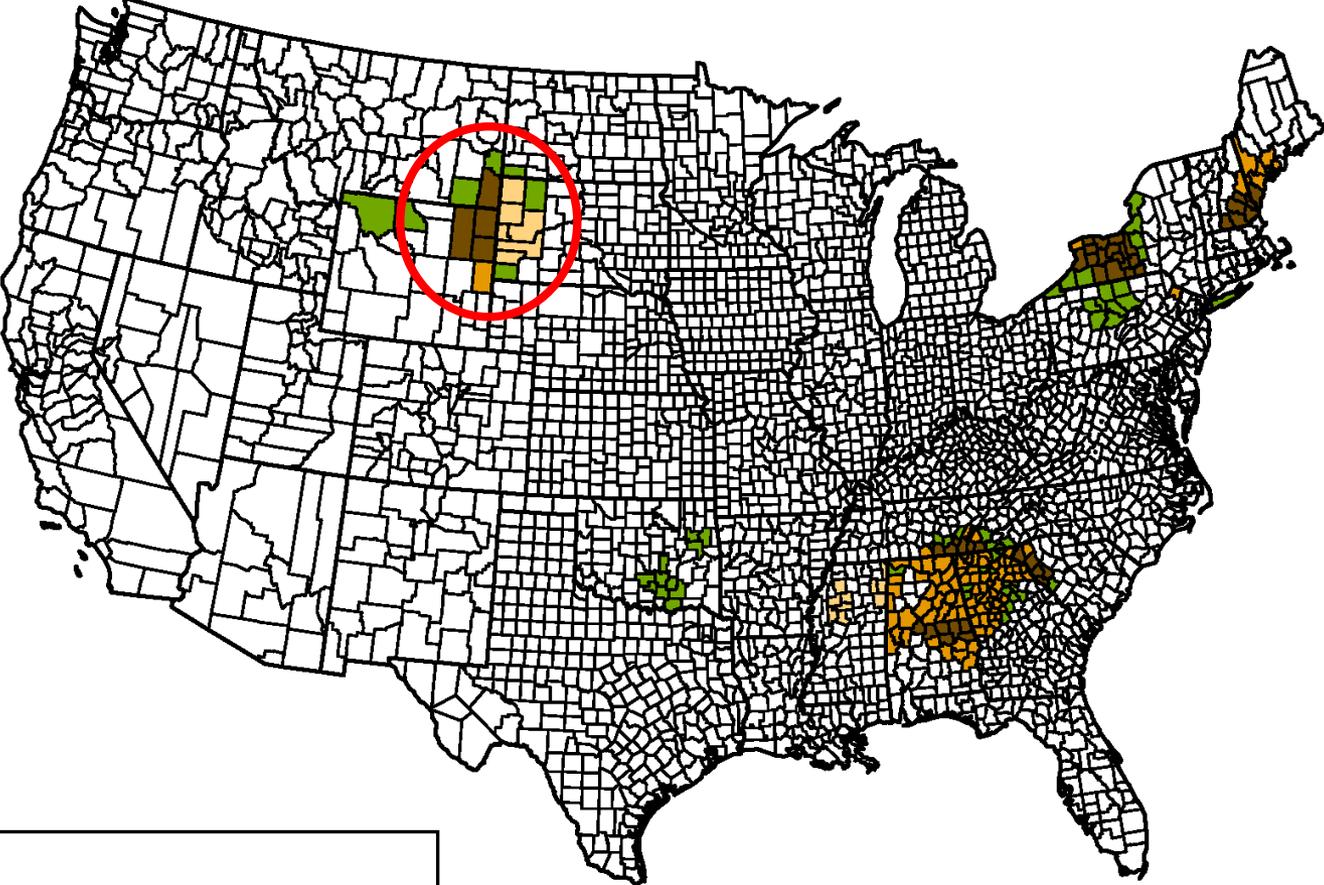
Eligible County
Payment Months



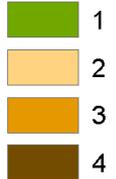
Map Scales Vary
Data Update - 12/29/16



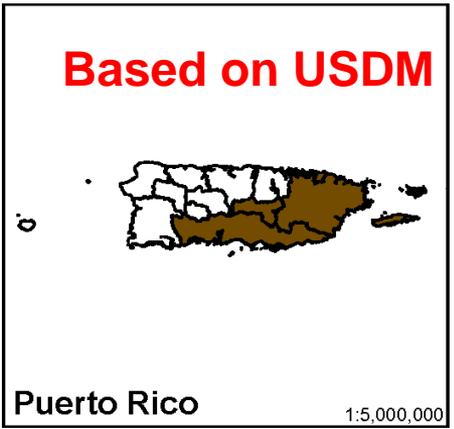
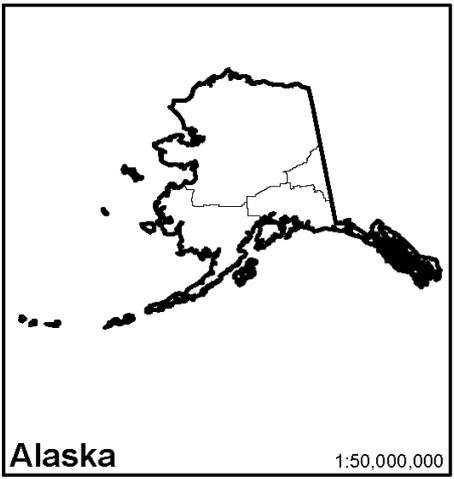
Livestock Forage Program Forage Sorghum - 2016 Program Year



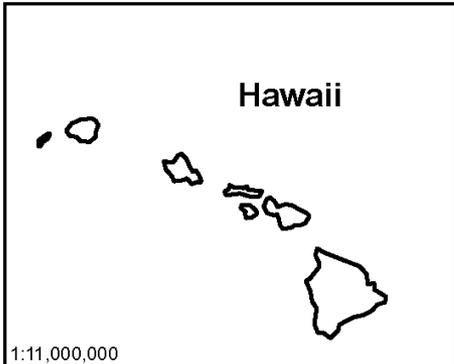
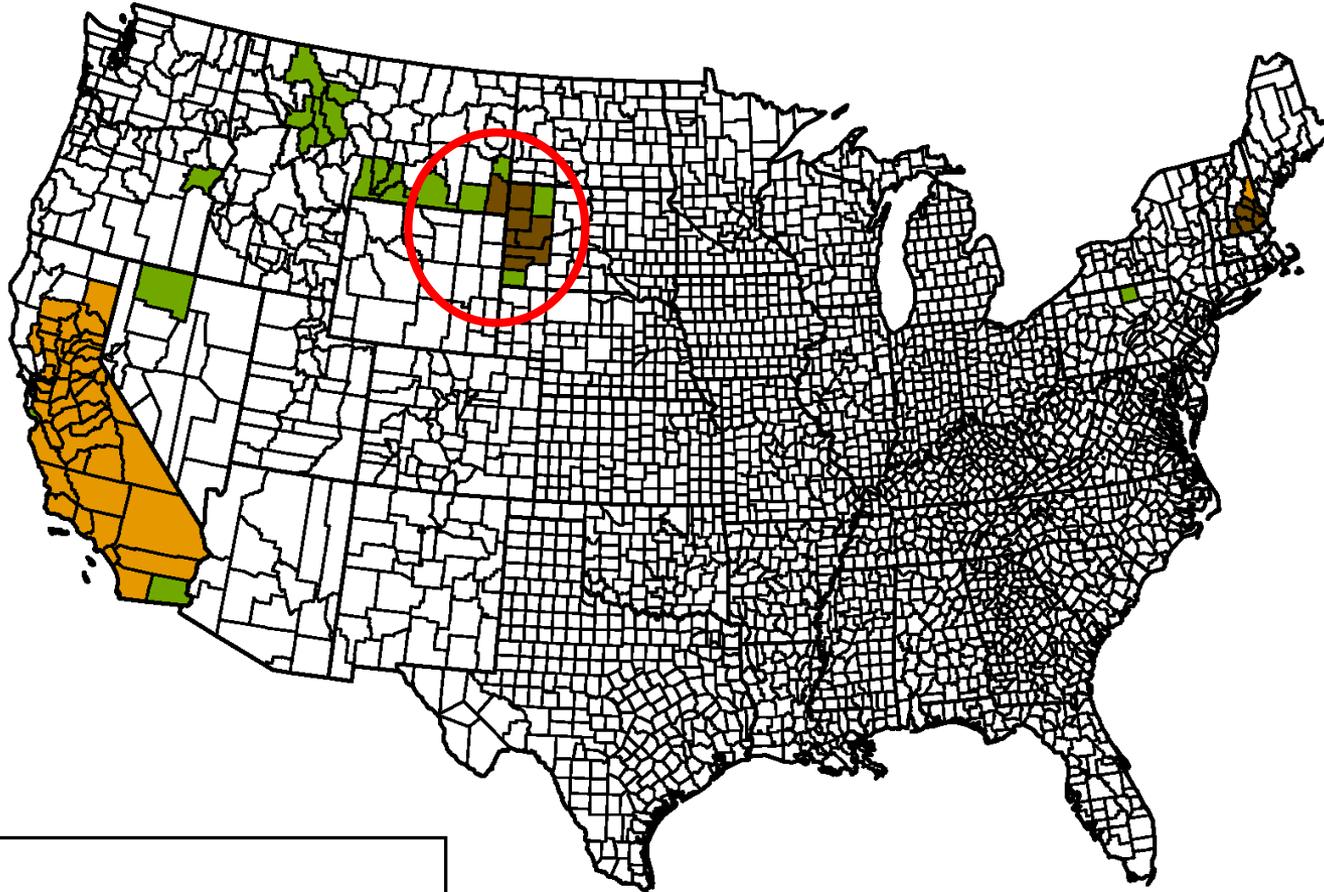
Eligible County
Payment Months



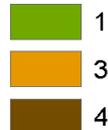
Map Scales Vary
Data Update - 12/29/16



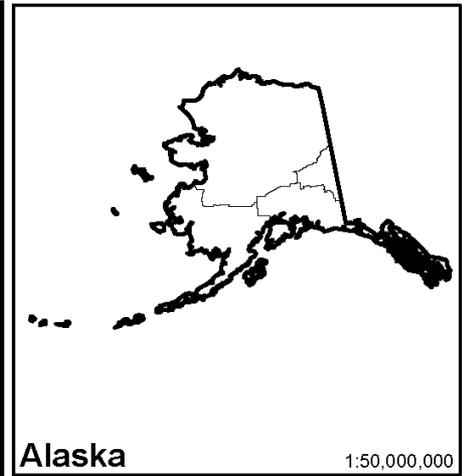
Livestock Forage Program Long Season Small Grains - 2016 Program Year



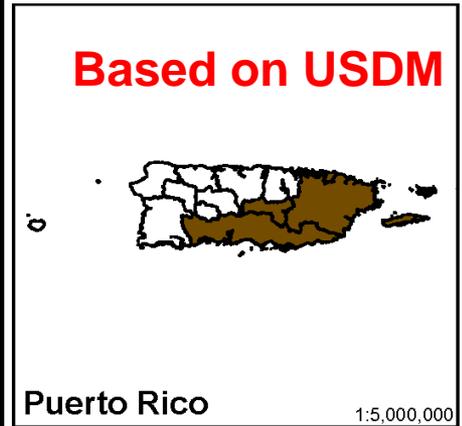
Eligible County
Payment Months



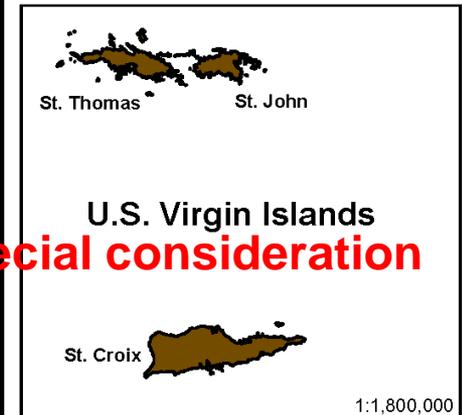
Map Scales Vary
Data Update - 12/29/16



Alaska 1:50,000,000



Puerto Rico 1:5,000,000



St. Thomas St. John

U.S. Virgin Islands
Special consideration

St. Croix 1:1,800,000

Comments? Questions?

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Photo by B. Rippey
Saline Co., Nebraska

April 18, 2013

