

USDA Use of U. S. Drought Monitor



2018 Amarillo Drought Workshop

April 5, 2018

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Program Triggers

- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Designations



Program Triggers

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Severe Drought Designation and Implementation Requests

LFP Program Trigger

- **LFP** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county.

LFP Program Trigger

- **LFP** provides compensation 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 grazing losses must occur after September 30, 2011.

LFP Program Trigger

- LFP uses the U. S. Drought Monitor to classify drought severity according to a range of abnormally dry to exceptional drought to determine if eligible livestock producers in a county may receive assistance under LFP for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for a specific type of grazing land or pastureland including determining the number of payment months.

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 1 monthly payment.

LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county during the normal grazing period rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having D₃ (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance equals to 3-monthly payments.

LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county rated as having D₃ (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks (nonconsecutive weeks) or a D₄ (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible for assistance equal to 4-monthly payments.

LFP Program Trigger

- Grazing losses on land in a county rated as having D₄ (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period (nonconsecutive weeks) is eligible for assistance equal to 5-monthly payments.

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.

LFP Program Trigger

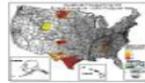
- Weekly LFP Program Eligibility maps can be found at:
 - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>

LFP Program Trigger

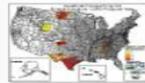
Weekly LFP Program Eligibility Maps

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.

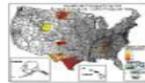
2018 Program Year Livestock Forage Program Maps (PDF files)



[Annual Rye Grass, 2018 Program Year \(PDF\)](#)



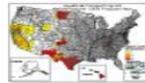
[Cool Season Improved Pasture, 2018 Program Year \(PDF\)](#)



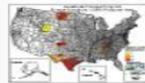
[Full Season Improved Pasture, 2018 Program Year \(PDF\)](#)



[Long Season Small Grains, 2018 Program Year \(PDF\)](#)

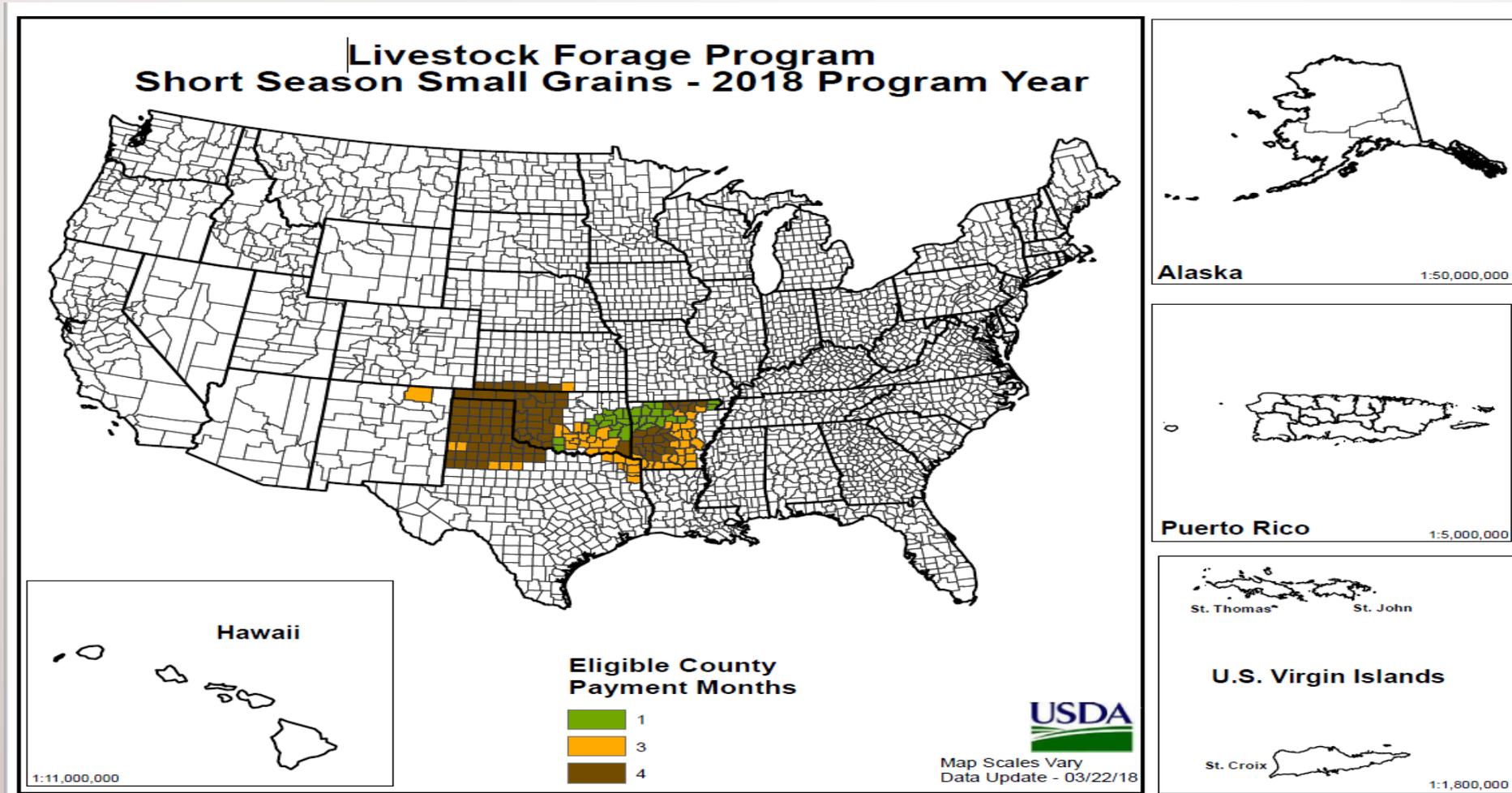


[Native Pasture, 2018 Program Year \(PDF\)](#)



[Short Season Small Grains, 2018 Program Year \(PDF\)](#)

LFP Program Trigger



ELAP Trigger

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, including losses because of blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.

ELAP Trigger

- Eligible drought means that any area of the county has been rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D3 (extreme drought) intensity:
 - At any time during the program year, for additional honeybee feed loss
 - That directly impact water availability at any time during the normal grazing period (for example, snow pack that feeds streams and springs), as determined by the Deputy Administrator or designee, for losses resulting from transporting water to livestock.

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 (D₂), or
 - extreme drought (D₃), or
 - exceptional drought (D₄) 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

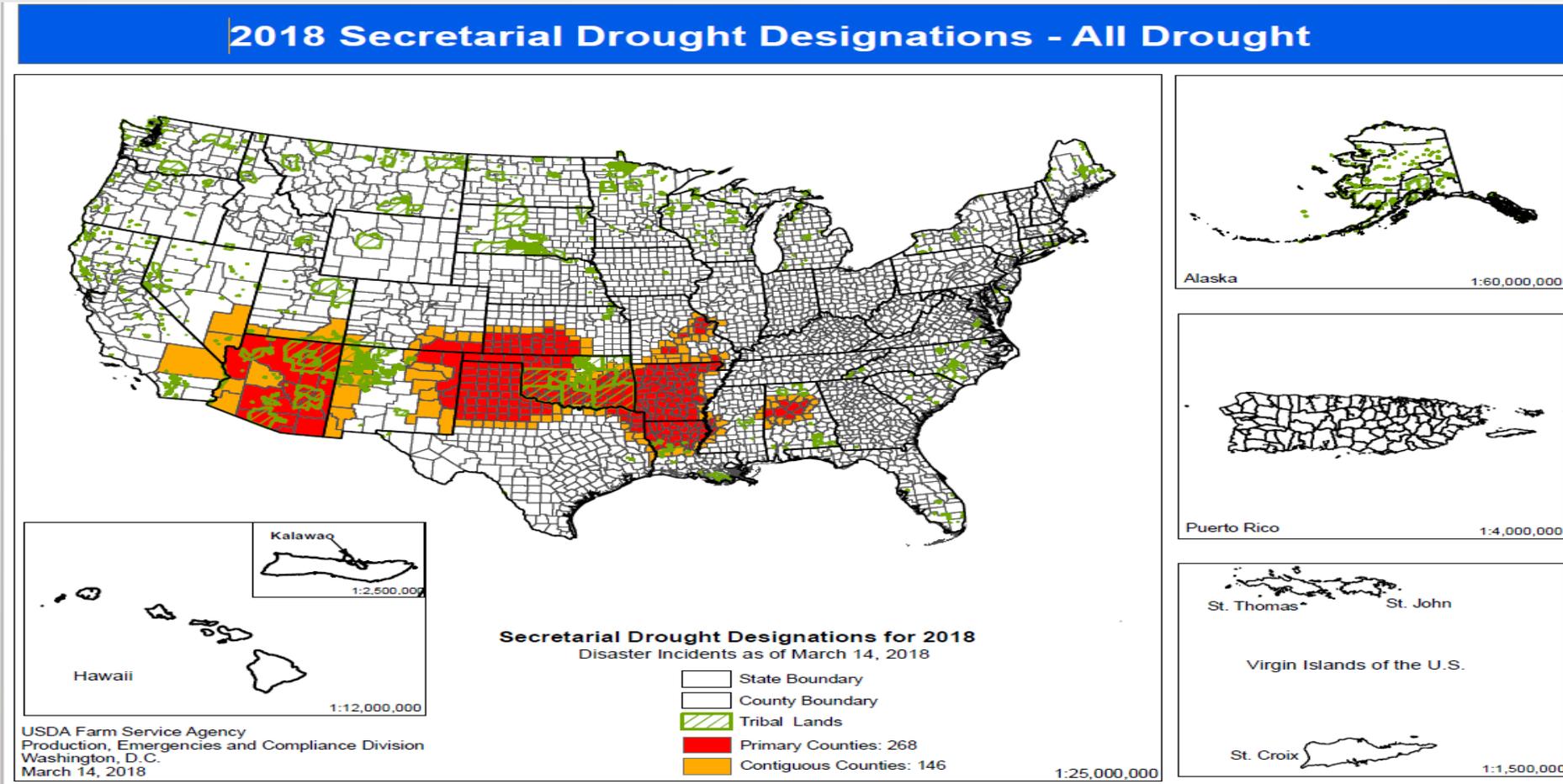
- Fast track and regular Secretarial disaster designations:
 - trigger availability of FSA Emergency Loans (EM)
 - may be used for eligibility for future ad hoc disaster assistance programs

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

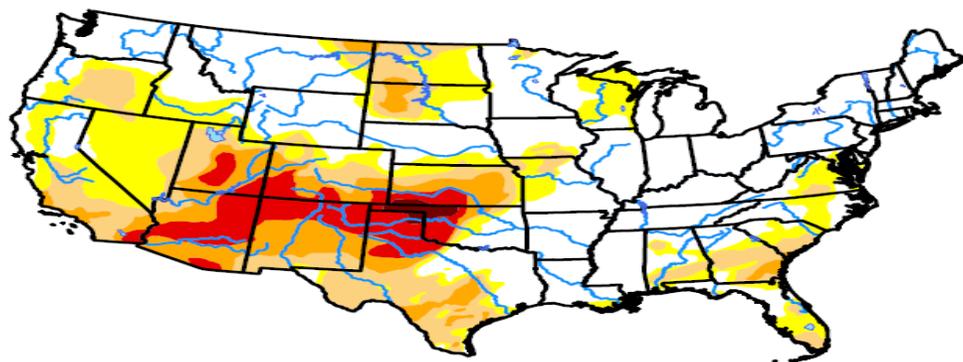
- FSA County Committee's (COC's) may request emergency haying or grazing for all or part of a county to FSA State Committee (STC) using the U.S. Drought Monitor when the county is designated as level "D2 Drought-Severe" according to the U. S. Drought Monitor.
- STC is not to approve during primary nesting and brood rearing season.

(CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- The U.S. Drought Monitor is available on the internet at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>.

(CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

U.S. Drought Monitor Continental U.S. (CONUS)



March 27, 2018
(Released Thursday, Mar. 29, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	50.80	49.20	30.77	16.36	7.26	0.55
Last Week <small>03-20-2018</small>	50.05	49.95	31.02	16.69	6.42	0.20
3 Months Ago <small>12-26-2017</small>	45.31	54.69	26.37	4.95	0.83	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-02-2018</small>	44.46	55.54	27.70	7.46	0.83	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-26-2017</small>	63.07	36.93	13.81	4.99	2.36	0.87
One Year Ago <small>03-28-2017</small>	64.41	35.59	14.20	2.82	0.21	0.00

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.

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

(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 authorized 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.

(CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- COC's may request emergency haying and grazing with STC concurrence through National Office if evidence supports county suffering 40 percent or greater loss in normal hay and pasture production and drought conditions, 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 date of request.

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 or orchards and 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 “D₃ Drought-Extreme” according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Questions

