



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

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Programs Subject to USDM Designations

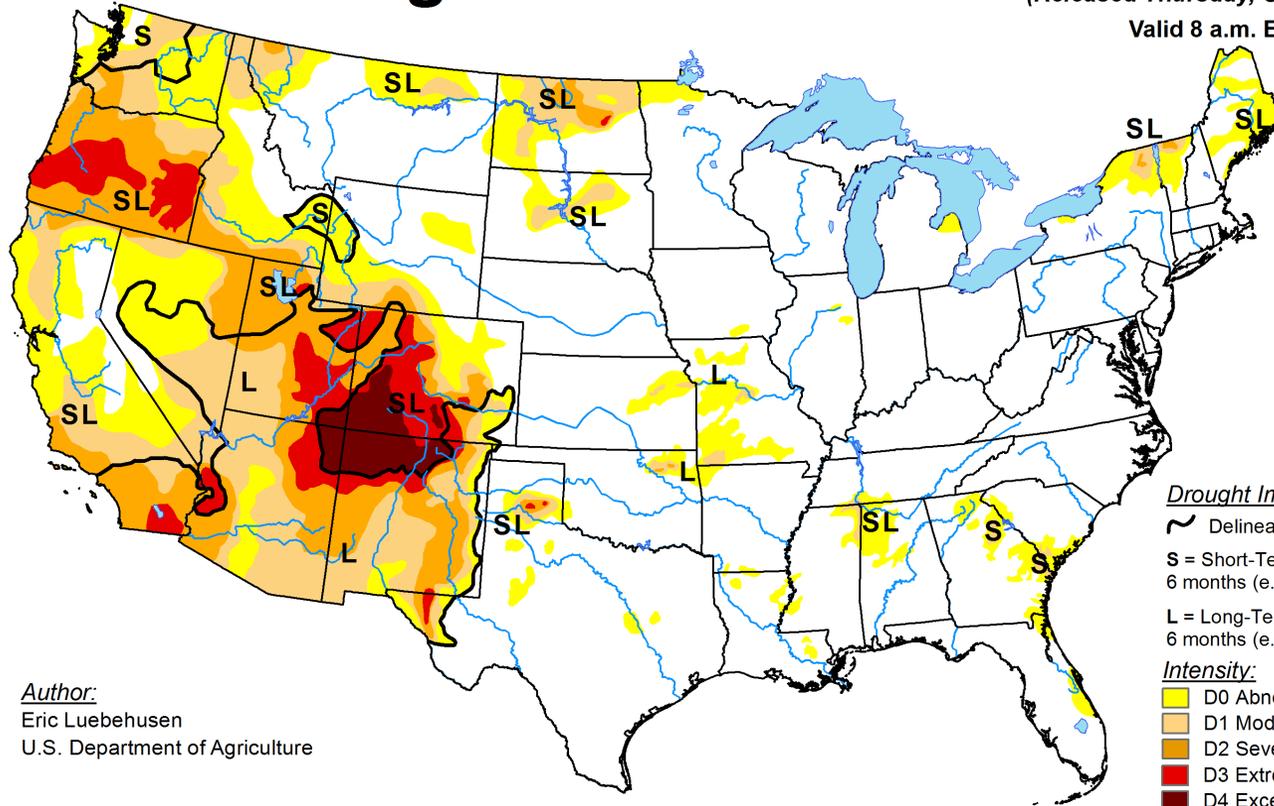
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)
- Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Designations
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Emergency Haying and Grazing Request
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Severe Drought Designation and Implementation Requests



U.S. Drought Monitor

October 16, 2018
(Released Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:
Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture

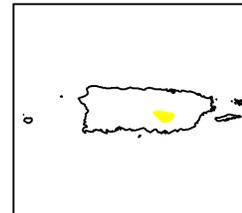
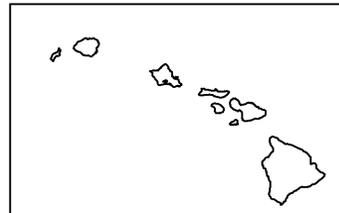
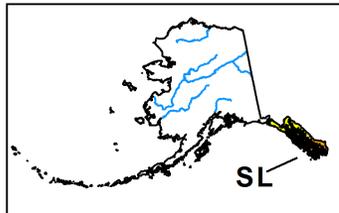
Drought Impact Types:

- ~ 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

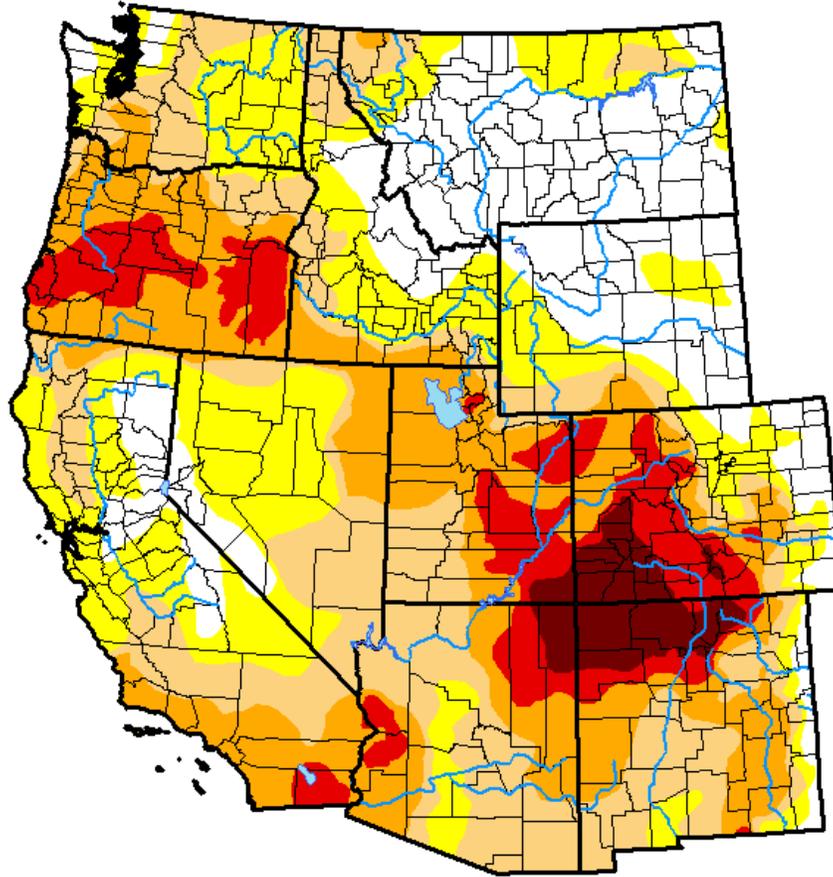
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



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

U.S. Drought Monitor West

October 16, 2018
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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	21.04	78.96	56.09	33.16	12.40	3.42
Last Week 10-09-2018	19.10	80.90	57.31	34.65	14.13	3.67
3 Months Ago 07-17-2018	26.88	73.12	51.73	32.70	19.52	4.73
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2018	48.76	51.24	29.03	8.60	1.52	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-25-2018	13.91	86.09	59.57	39.68	18.15	4.36
One Year Ago 10-17-2017	56.81	43.19	16.51	6.02	1.85	0.00

Intensity:

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

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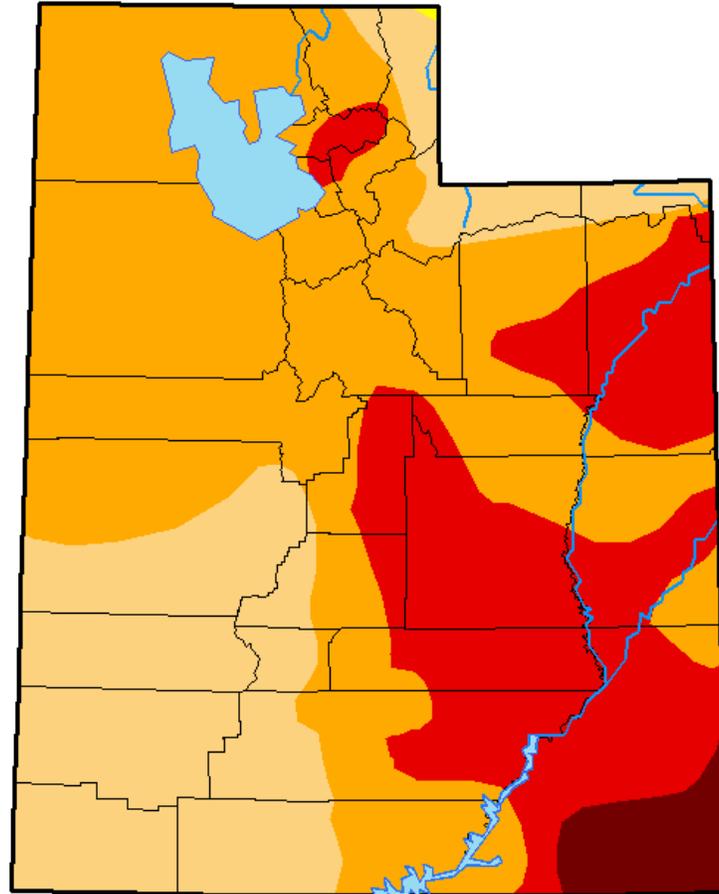
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U.S. Drought Monitor Utah



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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.96	76.13	26.84	3.01
Last Week <i>10-09-2018</i>	0.00	100.00	99.96	76.33	27.13	3.01
3 Months Ago <i>07-17-2018</i>	0.00	100.00	92.61	61.01	42.20	7.24
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2018</i>	9.73	90.27	61.37	19.64	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-25-2018</i>	0.00	100.00	99.96	87.58	46.68	7.24
One Year Ago <i>10-17-2017</i>	48.76	51.24	6.98	0.00	0.00	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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LFP Program Eligibility

The Livestock Forage Program (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 on land that is :

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

LFP Program Eligibility

LFP also provides assistance 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 "**DO (Abnormally Dry)**" to "**D₄ (Exceptional Drought)**" to determine if eligible livestock producers in a county are eligible to apply for 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 due to drought – 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 “**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 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 “**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 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 “**D₄ (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

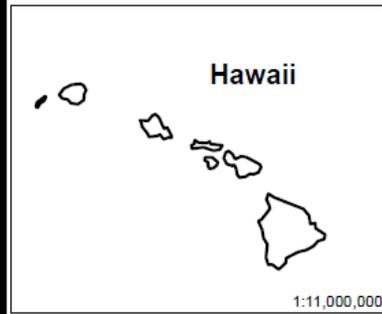
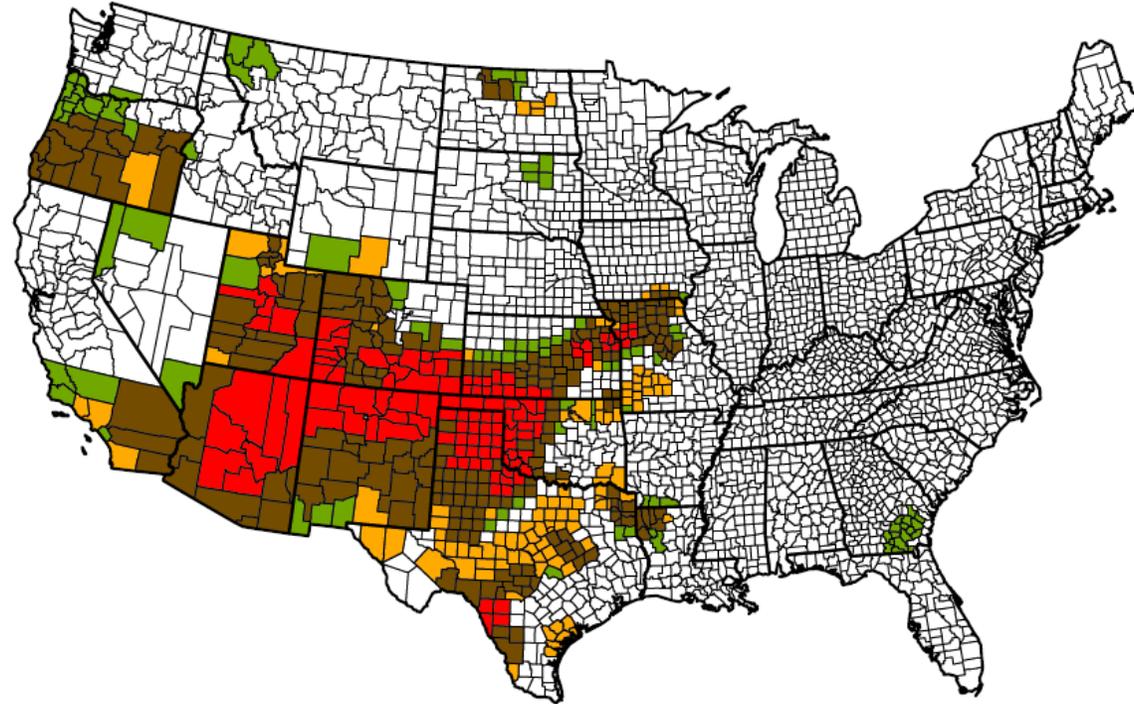
Weekly LFP Program Eligibility Maps

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.

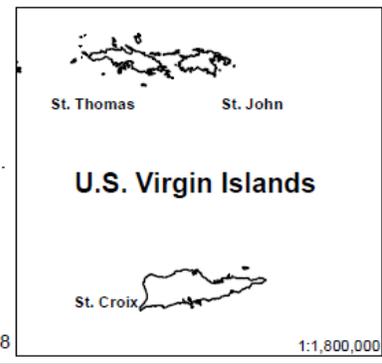
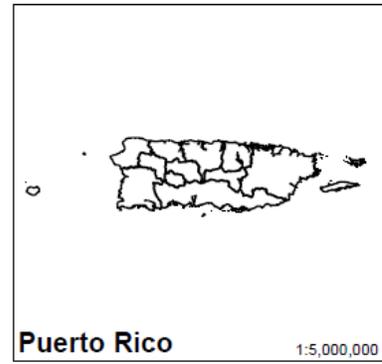
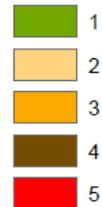
2018 Program Year Livestock Forage Program Maps (PDF files)

- [Annual Crab Grass](#), 2018 Program Year (PDF)
- [Annual Rye Grass](#), 2018 Program Year (PDF)
- [Cool Season Improved Pasture](#), 2018 Program Year (PDF)
- [Forage Sorghum](#), 2018 Program Year (PDF)
- [Full Season Improved Mixed](#), 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)
- [Short Season Small Grains 1](#), 2018 Program Year (PDF)
- [Warm Season Improved Pasture](#), 2018 Program Year (PDF)

Livestock Forage Program Native Pasture - 2018 Program Year



Eligible County Payment Months



Map Scales Vary
Data Update - 10-18-18

ELAP Program Eligibility

The Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) provides assistance to eligible producers for eligible losses for livestock, honeybees, and farm raised fish.

For 2014 and subsequent program years, ELAP assistance includes a loss resulting from the additional costs of transporting water to eligible livestock because of an **eligible drought**.

ELAP Program Eligibility

The cost of transporting water includes costs associated with water transport equipment fees, labor, and contracted water transporting fees.

- Eligible grazing land
- Had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities **before** the eligible drought
- The producer is **not** normally required to transport water

ELAP Program Trigger

- For losses resulting from transporting water to livestock on any area of the county that has been rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having **"D₃ (Extreme Drought)"** intensity
- Directly impacts water availability during the normal grazing period

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

ELAP Program Trigger

ELAP will cover losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting water to eligible livestock based on a national payment factor of the lesser of either of the following:

- the cost to transport water to eligible livestock for 150 calendar days calculated by multiplying:
 - the daily water requirement for the eligible livestock, times
 - the number of eligible livestock converted to AU's, times
 - the applicable national average price per gallon to transport water, times
 - 150 calendar days

ELAP Program Trigger

ELAP will cover losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting water to eligible livestock based on a national payment factor of the lesser of either of the following (con't):

- the cost to transport water to eligible livestock, based on the actual number of gallons of water the eligible producer transported to eligible livestock, calculated by multiplying:
 - actual number of gallons of water transported to eligible livestock times
 - the applicable national average price per gallon to transport water

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 **“D₂ (Severe Drought)”**, or
 - **“D₃ (Extreme Drought)”**, or
 - **“D₄ (Exceptional Drought)”** for any length of time.

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 (EM) Loans for primary and contiguous counties
 - may be used for eligibility for future ad hoc disaster assistance programs

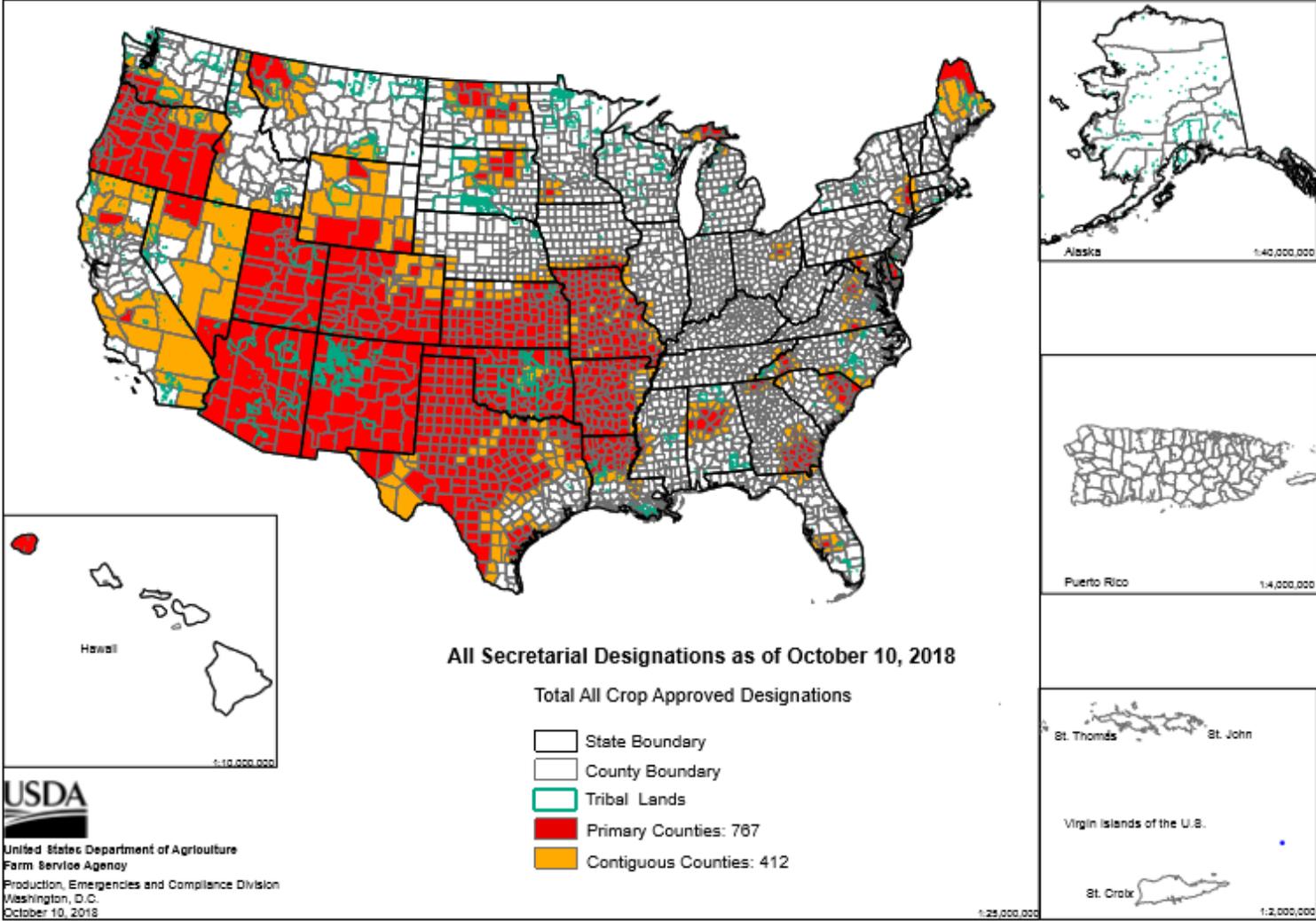
Fast Track Secretarial Disaster Declaration Trigger

Maps of Secretarial Disaster Designations for Drought by Crop Year can be found at:

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

Secretarial Disaster Designations - CY 2018

Primary and Contiguous Counties Designated for 2018 Crop Disaster Losses



CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

Conservation Reserve Program (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) when the county is designated as having a drought intensity level of "**D2 (Severe Drought)**" according to the U. S. Drought Monitor
- STC may not approve haying or grazing during primary nesting and brood rearing season

CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- Under the STC determination:
 - Emergency haying is authorized for a single period through August 31
 - Emergency grazing is authorized for a single period through September 30
 - May authorize one 30-calendar day extension of emergency grazing, not to exceed September 30

CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Request Triggers

- COCs 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.

ECP Drought Triggers

Emergency Conservation Program (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.

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.

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.

ECP Drought Triggers

- The precipitation data collection requirement may be waived if the county has been designated as level **"D₃ (Extreme Drought)"** according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Resources

- Fact Sheets
 - LFP – [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2018/livestock forage disaster program-july2018.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2018/livestock%20forage%20disaster%20program-july2018.pdf)
 - ELAP - [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2018/elap livestock assistance fact sheet-may 2018.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2018/elap%20livestock%20assistance%20fact%20sheet-may%202018.pdf)
 - Emergency Disaster Designation and Declaration Process - [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency disaster designation and declaration process oct2017.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency%20disaster%20designation%20and%20declaration%20process%20oct2017.pdf)
 - CRP Emergency Haying & Grazing – [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency haying and grazing oct2017.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency%20haying%20and%20grazing%20oct2017.pdf)
 - ECP - [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency conservation program oct2017.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency%20conservation%20program%20oct2017.pdf)

Questions

