



Drought Disaster Designations and USDA-FSA Resources

USDA Farm Service Agency
Arizona Department of Water Resources
Arizona Drought Interagency Coordinating Group
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Disaster Assistance Resources

- ▶ **Eligible FSA Natural Disaster**

- ▶ Types of Disaster Designations

- ▶ FSA Programs for Disasters
 - Emergency Farm Loans
 - Farm Programs



Eligible Natural Disaster

- ▶ Disasters in which damaging weather conditions or other adverse natural occurrence phenomena have substantially affected farmers causing severe production losses.
- ▶ Eligible natural disaster conditions include: drought, flooding, excessive rain and humidity, severe storms, lightning, hail, mudslides and landslides, snow, ice, blizzards, frost, freeze, below-normal temperatures, wind, tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons, tropical storms, fire, excessive heat, volcanoes, pests and disease.



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Types of Disaster Designations

FSA administers **four** types of disaster designations:

1. Presidential major disaster and Presidential emergency declarations;
2. USDA Secretarial disaster designation;
3. FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification; and
4. Quarantine designation by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act or animal quarantine laws.



Presidential Designation

- ▶ Presidential major disaster declarations must be requested of the President by a Governor
- ▶ A Presidential major disaster declaration can be made within days or hours of the initial request.
- ▶ Administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
 - FEMA immediately notifies FSA of the primary counties named in a Presidential declaration.



Secretarial Designation

Secretarial Expedited Process

- ▶ Fast Track for severe drought, nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season if any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) intensity value
- ▶ D2 must be for eight consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity value for any length of time as reported in the U.S. Drought Monitor
 - [Http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/)



Secretarial Designation

- ▶ U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate counties as disaster areas to make emergency loans (EM) available to producers suffering losses in those counties and in counties that are contiguous to a designated county.
- ▶ Other emergency assistance programs, such as FSA disaster assistance programs, have historically used disaster designations as an eligibility trigger.



Secretarial Designation

Secretarial General Process

- ▶ USDA Secretarial disaster designations (general process) must be requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by:
 - a Governor or the Governor's authorized representative;
 - an Indian Tribal Council leader;
 - or by an FSA State Executive Director (SED)
- ▶ Recommended to coordinate with FSA State Office to assist with various steps of the process

FSA Administrator's Physical Loss



- ▶ FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification (APLN) is requested of FSA's Administrator by an FSA SED.
- ▶ APLN is for physical losses only, such as a building destroyed by a tornado.
 - Livestock-related losses are considered physical losses.



Quarantine Designation

- ▶ A quarantine designation is requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by an FSA SED.
- ▶ Quarantine designation authorizes Emergency loans for production and physical losses resulting from quarantine.



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Emergency Farm Loans

- ▶ All four types of designation immediately trigger the availability of low-interest FSA Emergency loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties.
- ▶ FSA provides Emergency loans to help producers who own or operate located in a county declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area or quarantine area.
- ▶ All counties contiguous to the declared, designated, or quarantined primary counties also are eligible for Emergency loans



Emergency Farm Loans

- ▶ Current FSA borrowers located in designated disaster areas or contiguous counties, who are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, may be authorized to have certain set asides.



Emergency Farm Loans

The maximum loan amount for an Emergency Loan is \$500,000, **funds may be used to:**

- ▶ Restore or replace essential property
- ▶ Pay all or part of production cost associated with the disaster year
- ▶ Pay essential family living expenses
- ▶ Reorganize the farming operation
- ▶ Refinance certain debts, excluding real estate



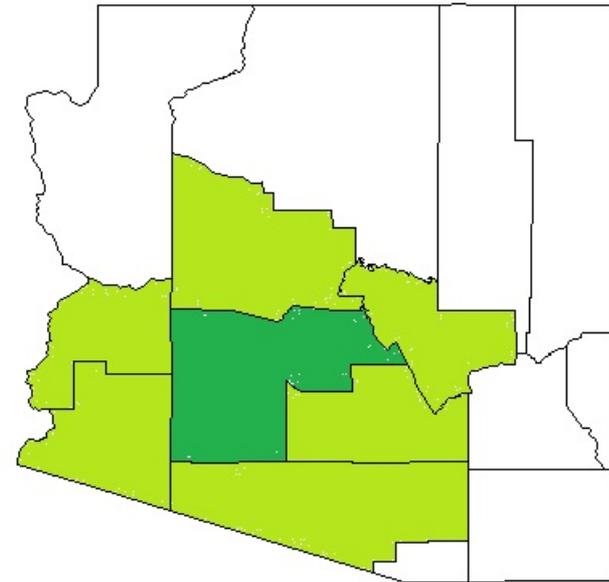
Emergency Farm Loans

- ▶ Rate is based on the Operating Loan rate plus 1%
- ▶ Term from 1-7 years for non real estate purposes
- ▶ Term up to 40 years for physical losses on real estate

Current Arizona FSA Disaster Designations



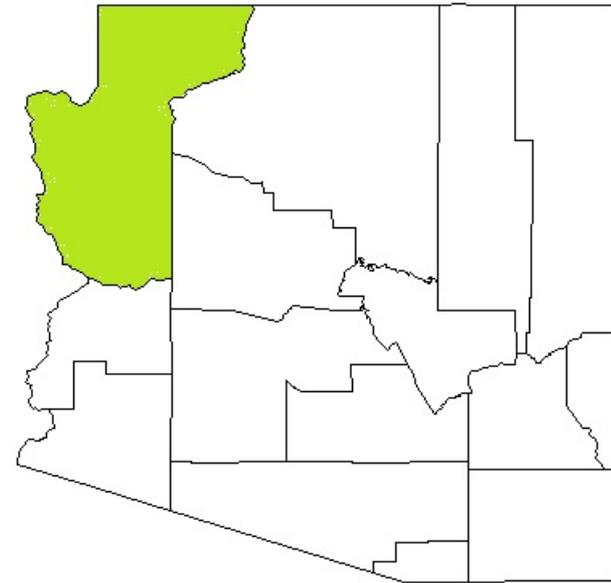
Emergency Loans (S3809) are available in the following counties in Arizona. The primary county is Maricopa County, the others are contiguous. The current designation is set to end on December 8, 2015.



Current Arizona FSA Disaster Designations



Emergency Loans (S3817) are available in the following county in Arizona. The primary county is Lincoln County, NV. Mohave is a contiguous county. The current designation is set to end on December 22, 2015.





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Disaster Assistance Resources

▶ Farm Programs

- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
 - Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
 - Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
 - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
 - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- ▶ For details on eligibility, applications, documentation needed, and more of these and other programs please contact your local county office

Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)



- ▶ Emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish to aid in the reduction of losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary
- ▶ Losses cannot be covered by Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

ELAP Sign-up



- ▶ Begins October 1 of the Fiscal Year ends November 1 after the end of the program year in which the loss occurred

Applicants must submit a **notice of loss** the earlier of:

- ▶ 30 calendar days of when loss is apparent
- ▶ November 1 after the end of the program year in which the loss occurred.

Applicants must submit an **application for payment** no later than November 1, after the end of the program year in which the loss occurred.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)



- ▶ ECP helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought.
- ▶ The ECP does this by giving ranchers and farmers funding and assistance to repair the damaged farmland or to install methods for water conservation.



Emergency Conservation Program

For land to qualify for ECP funds, the damage from the natural disaster or severe drought must create new conservation problems that if not dealt with would:

- Further damage the land
- Significantly affect the land's productive capacity
- Represent damage from a natural disaster unusual for the area (an exception to this is damage from wind erosion)
- Be too costly to repair without Federal assistance in order to return the land to agricultural production



Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

- ▶ Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to:
 - drought conditions
 - fire on Federally managed land

- ▶ Producers shall file an application with required supporting documents in the administrative county office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year the grazing loss occurred.

LFP Eligible Livestock

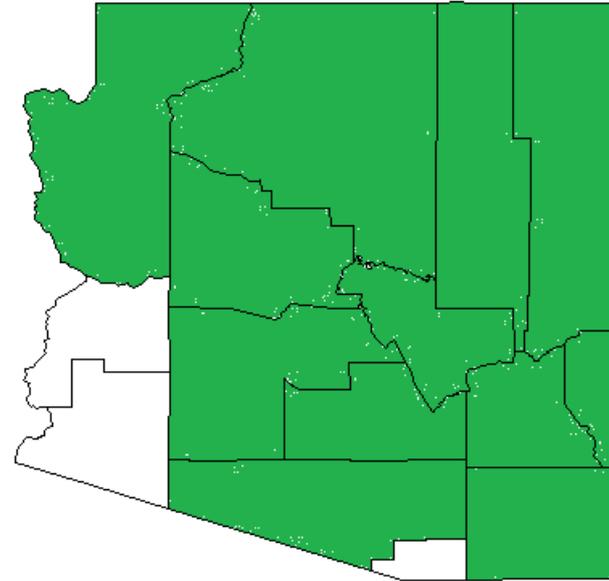


Eligible Livestock for LFP	
Adult and non-adult beef cattle	Deer
Adult and non-adult buffalo/beefalo	Elk
Adult and non-adult dairy cattle	Emus
Alpacas	Equine
	Goats

Current Arizona FSA Disaster Designations



As of last week all counties in Arizona EXCEPT La Paz, Santa Cruz and Yuma counties were designated eligible for LFP





Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

- ▶ LIP provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather.
- ▶ LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Eligible adverse weather events include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Hurricanes
- ▶ Tornado
- ▶ Floods
- ▶ Lightning
- ▶ Blizzards
- ▶ Tropical Storm
- ▶ Disease (Anthrax only)
- ▶ Earthquake
- ▶ Wildfires
- ▶ Typhoon
- ▶ Extreme heat
- ▶ Extreme cold
- ▶ Vog
- ▶ Winter Storm

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)



- ▶ NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting
- ▶ Eligible Producer must have enrolled for the coverage and paid the NAP premium during the enrollment period

NAP: Coverage and Premium



The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes additional coverage levels:

- ▶ NAP still offers the catastrophic level (CAT)
- ▶ NAP will offer buy-up coverage for the 2015 through 2018 crop years.

FSA will waive NAP service fees and reduce buy-up premiums by 50% for:

- ▶ Beginning farmers (BF)
- ▶ Limited resource farmers (LR)
- ▶ Underserved farmers (SDA)



Contact Information

Please visit our website at

www.fsa.usda.gov/az

Or

Contact your FSA County Office for more information.

Don't know your county office?

Call 602-285-6300 and we will connect you.