

Drought Assistance

USDA Agencies and Other Sources of Help

(2013-2014 California Drought)

USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): Funding & technical assistance for farm/ranch lands damaged by drought in drought designated counties and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures.

FSA Emergency Haying and Grazing: Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts/acreage.

FSA Livestock Forage Disaster Assistance Program: Provides cash payment to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses because of drought. Other FSA emergency livestock programs: **Emergency Assistance for Livestock (ELAP) program** and **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. Contact FSA for details (see below).

FSA Guaranteed Farm Loan Program: Guaranteed farm/ranch loans to construct or repair buildings and fixtures, purchase farmland, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fuel, insurance or refinance debt.

FSA Emergency Loans: USDA designated drought area qualify for low-interest loans to restore or replace essential property damaged in the disaster including crops and livestock.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Covers production losses for crops when federal crop insurance is not available.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE): for crop losses in counties declared as disaster counties by the USDA Secretary.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP): for tree losses.

Disaster Set-Aside (DSA): for producers who have direct loans with FSA and are unable to make payments.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP): Modifications of current EQIP contracts to allow conservation activities to address drought conditions. Waivers possible to start planned practices before contract funding

NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP): USDA authorizing haying and grazing of WRP easement areas in drought-affected areas (counties) where consistent with wildlife habitat conservation objectives.

NRCS Technical Assistance: Free assistance and advice, including on-site visits, regarding water conservation and ways to reduce water use on farms and ranches during a drought.

For More Information and Additional Sources of Drought Information:

USDA Drought Disaster website: www.disasterassistance.gov. <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA): www.ca.fsa.usda.gov; FSA offices: <http://offices.USDA.gov>
FSA Salinas (Monterey, San Mateo & Santa Cruz Counties): 831-424-1036
FSA/NRCS Hollister (Santa Clara and San Benito Counties): 831-637-4360
Internet Search: "USDA Drought Programs and Assistance" (& link to drought disaster counties)

USDA-NRCS web site: www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov. e-mail: richard.casale@ca.usda.gov
NRCS Capitola (Santa Cruz County): 831-475-1967; Salinas (Monterey County): 831-424-1036

Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County (Wireless Irrigation Network loan program) 831-464-2950 (Lisa Lurie ext. 27); "Slow It, Spread It and Sink It: Greening of Storm Water Runoff" RCD publication; www.rcdsantacruz.org

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (Rebates): 831-722-9292; www.pvwater.org
Eco-Farm Water Stewardship Project web site: www.eco-farm.org

UC Institute for Water Resources: <http://ciwr.ucanr.edu> (Drought response link)

Pacific Gas & Electric (Water/Energy Conservation rebate program); Charlene.iwata@pge.com;
831-784-3407

California Department of Water Resources: www.water.ca.gov; 916-653-5791

UC Davis Rangeland Watershed Laboratory: Drought status, survey of rancher perspectives, publications & UC Extension services.

<http://rangelandwatersheds.ucdavis.edu/main/drought.html>

National Drought Mitigation Center: Vegetation Drought Response Index for California

<http://vegdro.unl.edu/Home/StateVegDRI.aspx?CA>

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