



2012 Emergency Drought Relief Efforts

August 16, 2012, Version 3

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Indiana drought conditions are being reported as the worst since the drought of 1988. Currently, Indiana has all 92 counties in a D2 or worse drought designation, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor statistics. Lack of rainfall and extreme temperatures have devastated crops and impaired livestock feed and water supplies across Indiana. Due to these conditions across the State of Indiana, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is working closely with local, state and federal agencies and officials in communicating the latest information.

AVAILABLE FSA RESOURCES

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Assistance for Livestock Producers

FSA administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). There are provisions to release certain acreages enrolled under CRP for haying and grazing during emergency drought conditions. Indiana has received authorization from the National FSA Office to implement emergency haying and grazing provisions for all Indiana counties outside of the primary nesting season. Landowners are reminded to contact their local FSA office to determine if their CRP land is enrolled in an eligible practice for haying or grazing. This contact is vital since a conservation plan must be developed and authorization obtained prior to beginning and haying or grazing activities on CRP.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The ECP program is available for implementation and funding for drought emergency measures including temporary emergency water sources for livestock operations. Indiana FSA is working to assess the need for this program at the local Service Center level. If requested, Indiana FSA will work with the National Office to secure funding and work with conservation partners to assist producers in installing needed practices.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

FSA administers the NAP program. This program provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Producers must have applied for coverage prior to the crop's sales closing date for 2012.

Farm Loan Programs (FLP)

Indiana FSA provides Emergency Loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to the drought. Emergency Loans can be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the drought, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation and refinance certain debts.

Eligibility requirements include –

- ★ Own or operate land located in a county that was recently declared as a primary disaster area or a contiguous county.
- ★ Be an established family farm operator.
- ★ Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- ★ Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock.
- ★ Have an acceptable credit history.
- ★ Are unable to receive credit from a commercial lender.
- ★ Have the ability to repay the loan and offer adequate security.

The current Emergency Loan interest rate is 2.25 percent.

Existing Farm Loan Program customers that are having difficulties making scheduled loan payments can apply for Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) or the Agency's primary loan servicing programs.

Other Emergency Assistance

The Secretary of Agriculture has advised farmers who suffer losses to maintain accurate, verifiable records of physical or production losses, livestock deaths, and additional feed costs. Currently, FSA has no available programs for these specific losses. However, in the event of any potential legislation authorizing such programs, these records will help FSA in determining eligibility.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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