



USDA Designates Three South Dakota Counties as Natural Disaster Areas **Emergency Designation | South Dakota | May 06, 2025**

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through [emergency loans](#). Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Impacted Area: South Dakota

Triggering Disaster: Drought (Fast-Track)

Application Deadline: Dec. 22, 2025

Primary Counties Eligible: Custer, Fall River, and Oglala Lakota

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

Nebraska: Cherry, Dawes, Sheridan, and Sioux

South Dakota: Bennett, Jackson, and Pennington

Wyoming: Niobrara and Weston

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Loan Assistance Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk

FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov