USDA Designates Four South Dakota Counties as Natural Disaster Areas Due to Drought

Emergency Designation | South Dakota | May 14, 2026

South Dakota

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.

Triggering Disaster #1:

Impacted Area: South Dakota and Nebraska
Triggering Disaster: Drought (Fast Track)
Application Deadline: 01/06/2027

Primary Counties Eligible:

- **South Dakota:** Brule, Gregory, Lyman and Tripp

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

- **Nebraska:** Boyd, Cherry and Keya Paha
- **South Dakota:** Aurora, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Jones, Mellette, Stanley and Todd

Triggering Disaster #2:

Impacted Area: Nebraska and South Dakota
Triggering Disaster: Drought (Fast Track)
Application Deadline: 01/06/2027

Primary Counties Eligible:

- **Nebraska:** Keya Paha, Logan and Rock

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

- **Nebraska:** Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Holt, Lincoln, Loup, McPherson and Thomas
- **South Dakota:** Gregory, Todd and Tripp

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.

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