



## USDA Designates Nine Massachusetts Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

**Emergency Designation | August 30, 2022**

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 the refinance of 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:** Massachusetts

**Triggering Disaster:** Drought

**Application Deadline:** April 17, 2023

**Primary Counties Eligible:** Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Massachusetts:** Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire

**Connecticut:** Tolland and Windham

**New Hampshire:** Cheshire, Hillsborough and Rockingham

**Rhode Island:** Bristol, Newport and Providence

### **More Resources**

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery 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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