

DROUGHT RESOURCE GUIDE



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DROUGHT RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

USDA Disaster Declaration

As of September 29, 2016, the USDA disaster declaration has been updated to designate 33 counties as primary natural disaster areas and an additional 18 counties as contiguous disaster counties due to a recent drought. A disaster declaration makes farmers eligible for assistance, including emergency loans, from the United State Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA FSA).

The primary counties included under this designation include:

Capital Region

- ⇒ Albany
- ⇒ Rensselaer
- ⇒ Saratoga
- ⇒ Schenectady
- ⇒ Washington

Central New York

- ⇒ Cayuga
- ⇒ Cortland
- ⇒ Onondaga
- ⇒ Oswego

Finger Lakes

- ⇒ Genesee
- ⇒ Livingston
- ⇒ Monroe
- ⇒ Ontario
- ⇒ Orleans
- ⇒ Seneca
- ⇒ Wayne
- ⇒ Wyoming
- ⇒ Yates

Mohawk Valley

- ⇒ Schoharie

North Country

- ⇒ Jefferson
- ⇒ Lewis

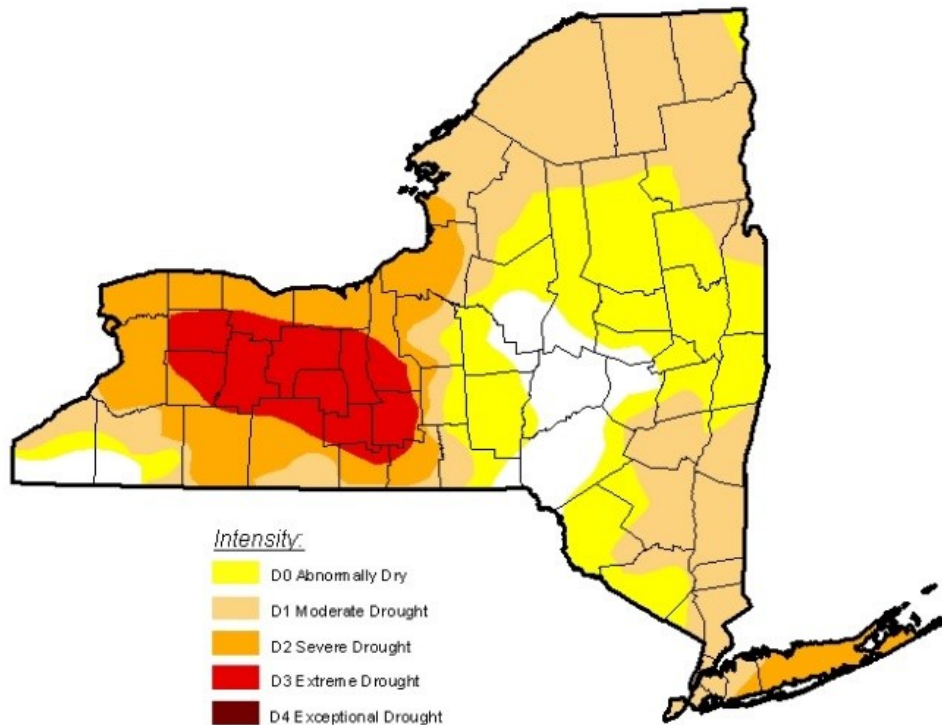
Long Island

- ⇒ Suffolk

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Southern Tier

- ⇒ Allegany
- ⇒ Broome
- ⇒ Chemung
- ⇒ Schuyler
- ⇒ Steuben
- ⇒ Tioga
- ⇒ Tompkins

Western New York

- ⇒ Cattaraugus
- ⇒ Chautauqua
- ⇒ Erie
- ⇒ Niagara

Disaster declaration is based on the reporting of crop loss to the FSA and the U.S. Drought Monitor D3 designation. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, found at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>, these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks, D3 (Drought-Extreme), or D4 (Drought-Exceptional).

United States Drought Monitor Home

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

NOTE: To view national and regional drought conditions, click on map on previous page. The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is each Tuesday.

The USDA also named 18 counties as contiguous disaster counties including:

- ⇒ Chenango
- ⇒ Columbia
- ⇒ Delaware
- ⇒ Dutchess
- ⇒ Essex
- ⇒ Fulton
- ⇒ Greene
- ⇒ Hamilton
- ⇒ Herkimer
- ⇒ Madison
- ⇒ Montgomery
- ⇒ Nassau
- ⇒ Oneida
- ⇒ Otsego
- ⇒ Putnam
- ⇒ Saint Lawrence
- ⇒ Warren
- ⇒ Westchester

A disaster designation makes farm operators in primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application based on the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator. Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information. Contact information for the offices can be found at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ny&agency=fsa>.

FSA Emergency Loan Fact Sheet

http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/Press%20Releases/USDA_Emergency_Loan_Pgm.pdf

Additional FSA Programs Available for Drought Impacted Farmers

http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/Press%20Releases/Disaster_Assistance.pdf

Regardless of how extreme the situation is for your farm, a number of best management practices can help your business be more resilient to economic and weather volatility.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NY FarmNet

The mission of NY FarmNet is to provide New York farm families with free, confidential consulting services to develop skills to improve financial and production efficiency and overcome business and family challenges through personalized education, business and personal planning, and referrals for specialized assistance. The web address is www.nyfarmnet.org.

NY FarmNet offers services that include:

- Business planning - retirement and estate planning
- Financial analysis - stress management
- Personal well-being - farming with the family
- Business transfers - conflict management

NYFarmNet can be contacted at:

1-800-547-FARM (3276)

NYFarmNet@cornell.edu

NY EDEN Drought Resource Page

The New York Extension Disaster Education Network (NY EDEN) is a collaborative educational network based at Cornell University, dedicated to educating New York residents about preventing, preparing for and recovering from emergencies and disasters that could affect their families and communities. NY EDEN is affiliated with both the national USDA Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) and with Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

NY EDEN works to link the emergency preparedness resources of New York agencies and organizations with the community networking and outreach capabilities of Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Centers throughout the state. EDEN has a drought resource page with tips and numerous fact sheets. Info can be found here: <http://eden.cce.cornell.edu/disasters/Pages/Drought.aspx>

Cornell Pro-Dairy Drought Services

Cornell Pro-Dairy has resources for forage management in a drought situation (<http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/sites/prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/files/shared/Forage%20Resources%20-%20Drought%208-2016.pdf>) that outlines many considerations related to forage management and provides a list of more detailed information on many related topics. Local Cornell Cooperative Extension offices (<http://cce.cornell.edu/localoffices>) are also a valuable resource.

As corn harvest approaches, it is necessary to obtain reliable estimates of your farm's forage situation for the coming year. A number of resources are available to help assess forage inventories, evaluate alternative feed sources and make decisions regarding whole farm management in the face of forage shortages.

Detailed CCE Advice for Farmers During the Drought

Cornell Cooperative Extension NWNy, Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team has numerous articles to assist farmers during the drought. Topics include:

- Optimizing Your Harvest by Reducing Feed Shrink (with tips on harvest, storage, feed out);
- Forage Management and Nutrition in the face of Drought (with tips on forage inventory, harvest management, purchasing standing corn);
- Balancing Livestock and Forage to Thrive Past the Drought (with tips on balancing feed supply, increasing grain to forage, purchasing forage from a neighbor, planting winter annual grains, boarding young stock with another farmer that has adequate forages and culling the herd if necessary)
- Winter Triticale for Extra Spring Forage (tips on planting date, how to plant, etc.)
- Fall Forages (tips on alfalfa, pastures, hay supplies. <http://www.hayexchange.com> and <https://haycountry.com> provide online listings to purchase forage)



Their most recent newsletter can be found here: http://nydairyadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/newsletter/pdf122_pdf.pdf

Beef Cattle Drought Resources

The Cornell Beef Cattle Management team has put together a list of resources to help beef cattle producers deal with the drought. Resources include articles on pasture management and hay storage, spreadsheets to estimate cattle grazing days and forage inventory, and links to drought monitoring websites. The resources can be found at http://blogs.cornell.edu/beefcattle/producer-resources/?utm_source=August+1st+2016+Update&utm_campaign=Enews+Marketing&utm_medium=email

Livestock Water Hauling Relief Available Through ELAP

For those experiencing drought who are hauling water for livestock, USDA can help through the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). ELAP covers losses during emergency weather conditions, including droughts, and covers losses resulting from the transportation of water. You can find more information at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2016/2016_elap_for_honeybee.pdf

The FSA accepts applications ahead of time and they will go into effect once the disaster declaration has been made. To apply for the program, visit your local USDA Service Center. You can find their locations at https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/countyofficelisting2012.pdf

The Northeast Regional Climate Center's Drought Update page

The Northeast Regional Climate Center's Drought Update page provides weekly updates on drought conditions, impacts, and precipitation deficits. It also offers temperature, precipitation, and other relevant climate outlooks. The page is updated on Thursdays and can be found at <http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional/drought/drought.html>.

Crop Insurance

The Department of Agriculture and Markets has a resource page on Crop Insurance at <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsuranceBasics.html>.

Jefferson County Economic Development has many drought resources

Topics covered include pricing drought stressed corn silage and inventory of forage.

Information can be found at: <http://www.comefarmwithus.com/drought/>

USDA Crop Progress & Condition

This weekly report provides weekly information on crop conditions, soil moisture and crop progress. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/State_Crop_Progress_and_Condition/current/current_ny.rtf

OTHER AGENCY ASSISTANCE

NYSERDA Energy Audits

NYSERDA created a new Agriculture Energy Audit Program which provides no-cost energy audits to farms and currently has \$2.2 million in funding.

The program offers financial assistance to identify electric and natural gas energy efficiency measures for eligible farms and on-farm producers, including but not limited to: dairies, orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers and poultry/egg.

NYSERDA will assign Flexible Technical Assistance (FlexTech) Program Consultants to perform energy audits to eligible farms. To be eligible a farm must be a customer of a New York State investor-owned utility and pay the System Benefits Charge (SBC).

Here is the program's website link: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Audit>

DEC Water Withdrawal Regulation Reminder

As the dry weather persists, farmers are reminded of the Department of Environmental Conservation's regulations regarding water withdrawals. Depending on several factors, agricultural facilities may be required to register, report on usage, or apply for a water withdrawal permit (groundwater, surface water, or a combination). Water withdrawal applies to both surface water and groundwater. For the purposes of the water withdrawal regulations, agricultural facilities include: farming for crops, plants, vines and trees; the keeping, grazing, or feeding of livestock for sale of livestock or livestock products; and the on-farm processing of crops, livestock and livestock products.

All agricultural facilities that have withdrawn groundwater or surface water equal to, or in excess of, an average of 100,000 gallons per day in any 30-day consecutive period (3 million gallons during a 30-day period) must file an annual Agricultural Water Withdrawal Report (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/86904.html>) with DEC by March 31 of each year.

For more information on Agricultural Water Withdrawals, visit the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/86747.html>

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