

## **USDA Designates 17 Georgia Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas**

**News Release | Georgia | March 28, 2024**

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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:** Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia

**Triggering Disaster:** Drought

**Beginning Date – Incident Period:** December 15, 2023\_

**Application Deadline:** November 25, 2024

**Primary Counties Eligible:** Bartow, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Rabun, Towns, Union, White, Whitfield

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Georgia:** Banks, Catoosa, Cobb, Forsyth, Fulton, Hall, Paulding, Polk, Stephens, Walker

**Alabama:** Cherokee, DeKalb

**North Carolina:** Cherokee, Clay, Macon

**South Carolina:** Oconee

**Tennessee:** Bradley, Hamilton, Polk

**Triggering Disaster 2:** Drought\_

**Beginning Date – Incident Period:** November 2, 2023\_

**Application Deadline:** November 25, 2024

**Primary Counties Eligible:** South Carolina: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Greenville, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union, York

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Georgia:** Columbia, Elbert, Franklin, Habersham, Hart, Lincoln, Rabun, Stephens

**North Carolina:** Cleveland, Gaston, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Mecklenburg, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania

**South Carolina:** Edgefield, Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Richland, Saluda

**Triggering Disaster 3:** Drought\_

**Beginning Date – Incident Period:** November 15, 2023\_

**Application Deadline:** November 25, 2024

**Primary Counties Eligible:** Tennessee: Anderson, Bedford, Benton, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Claiborne, Clay, Coffee, Crockett, Cumberland, Davidson, Decatur, DeKalb, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Fentress, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Loudon, McMinn, McNairy, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Maury, Meigs, Monroe, Moore, Morgan, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Rutherford, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Shelby, Smith, Tipton, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, Weakley, White, Williamson, Wilson

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Tennessee:** Cocke, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Lake, Macon, Montgomery, Obion, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale

**Alabama:** Jacksonville, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison

**Arkansas:** Crittenden, Mississippi

**Georgia:** Catoosa, Dade, Fannin, Murray, Walker, Whitfield

**Kentucky:** Bell, Calloway, Clinton, Cumberland, Graves, Hickman, McCreary, Monroe, Wayne, Whitley

**Mississippi:** Alcorn, Benton, De Soto, Marshall, Tippah, Tishomingo

**Missouri:** Pemiscot

**North Carolina:** Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Swain

**Virginia:** Lee\_

**Triggering Disaster 4:** Drought\_

**Beginning Date – Incident Period:** November 1, 2023\_

**Application Deadline:** November 25, 2024

**Primary Counties Eligible:** North Carolina: Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Macon, Swain

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Georgia:** Fannin, Rabun, Towns, Union

**North Carolina:** Burke, Catawba, Graham, Haywood, Iredell, Jackson, Mecklenburg, Rutherford

**South Carolina:** Cherokee, Oconee, York

**Tennessee:** Blount, Monroe, Polk, Sevier

**Triggering Disaster 5:** Drought\_

**Beginning Date – Incident Period:** December 1, 2023\_

**Application Deadline:** November 25, 2024

**Primary Counties Eligible:** Alabama: Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, Morgan, Pickens, St. Clair, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, Winston

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Alabama:** Autauga, Baldwin, Clarke, Coosa, Dallas, Elmore, Perry, Randolph, Tallapoosa, Wilcox

**Georgia:** Carroll, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Haralson, Polk, Walker

**Mississippi:** Clarke, George, Greene, Itawamba, Jackson, Kemper, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Monroe, Noxubee, Tishomingo, Wayne

**Tennessee:** Franklin, Giles, Hardin, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Wayne

### **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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