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Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Designates Houston County as Primary Natural Disaster Area Due to Drought

News Release | Minnesota | August 24, 2023

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Additional Contiguous Counties Eligible in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

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: Minnesota

Triggering Disaster: Drought- (Fast Track) S5498

Application Deadline: April 22, 2024

Primary Counties Eligible: Houston

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

Minnesota: Fillmore, Winona

Iowa: Allamakee, Winneshiek

Wisconsin: La Crosse, Vernon

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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