



Farm Service Agency  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## [USDA Designates Eight Minnesota Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas Due to Drought](#)

**News Release | Minnesota | September 12, 2023**

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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:** Minnesota

**Triggering Disaster:** Drought (Fast Track) S5535

**Application Deadline:** 5/13/2024

**Primary Counties Eligible:** Beltrami, Big Stone, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Scott, Traverse, Waseca

**Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:**

**Minnesota:** Aitkin, Blue Earth, Carver, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Dakota, Faribault, Freeborn, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Lac Qui Parle, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Marshall, Pennington, Rice, Roseau, St. Louis, Sibley, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Wilkin

**North Dakota:** Richland

**South Dakota:** Grant, Roberts

**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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