
USDA Designates Two Maryland Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas for Drought; Additional Primary and Contiguous Disaster Counties also located in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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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 eight or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Disaster #1:

Impacted Area: Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington Counties in Maryland

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: June 24, 2024

Primary Counties Eligible:

Virginia: Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudon, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

Maryland: Frederick, Montgomery, Washington

Virginia: Culpeper, Fairfax, Madison, Page, Prince William, Rockingham, Stafford, Winchester

West Virginia: Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Morgan

Disaster #2:

Impacted Area: Frederick and Washington Counties in Maryland

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: July 1, 2024

Primary Counties Eligible:

Maryland: Frederick and Washington

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

Maryland: Allegany, Carroll, Howard, Montgomery

Pennsylvania: Adams, Franklin, Fulton

Virginia: Loudon

West Virginia: Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan

Disaster #3:

Impacted Area: Washington County in Maryland

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: June 24, 2024

Primary Counties Eligible:

West Virginia: Jefferson

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

Maryland: Washington

Virginia: Clarke, Frederick, Loudon

West Virginia: Berkeley

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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