



## Farm Service Agency

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# News Release

For Immediate Release

## USDA Designates California Ag Counties for Drought Disaster Assistance

DAVIS, CA - Jan. 24, 2014 - Since January 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 53 of California's 58 counties as natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by extreme drought. The designated counties include:

Alameda	Kings	Nevada	Shasta
Alpine	Lake	Orange	Sierra
Amador	Lassen	Placer	Siskiyou
Butte	Los Angeles	Plumas	Solano
Calaveras	Madera	Sacramento	Sonoma
Colusa	Marin	San Benito	Stanislaus
Contra Costa	Mariposa	San Bernardino	Sutter
El Dorado	Mendocino	San Joaquin	Tehama
Fresno	Merced	San Luis Obispo	Trinity
Glenn	Modoc	San Mateo	Tulare
Humboldt	Mono	Santa Barbara	Tuolumne
Inyo	Monterey	Santa Clara	Ventura
Kern	Napa	Santa Cruz	Yolo
			Yuba

Agricultural operators in all counties designated as natural disaster areas may qualify for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). The agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. The maximum amount for an EM loan is \$500,000.

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in California also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are:

Del Norte	Riverside	San Diego
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"Just about everyone in California agriculture has been hit hard by drought this year," said Val Dolcini, Farm Service Agency State Executive Director. "California's diverse farmers and ranchers have experienced drought conditions and water shortages in nearly every corner of the state and may find help at FSA offices."

Farmers and ranchers in designated counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the EM loan to help cover part of their actual losses. To verify the deadline for application in your area, contact your county's Farm Service Agency Office. You can visit [www.usda.gov/ca](http://www.usda.gov/ca) to get the location of all FSA offices in any state.

The Farm Service Agency's Emergency Conservation Program may also help restore conversation-related farm property and facilities. And the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is available for producers who have enrolled in this annual protection program prior to the deadline earlier this year. For further information, contact your local USDA Service Center regarding all program eligibility requirements and application procedures. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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