



Drought Programs and Resources

California-Specific Federal/ State Agencies & Assistance Programs

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Drought Resources

www.cdfa.ca.gov/drought

California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) Drought Resources for Organic Operations

<http://ccof.org/drought-resources>

In disaster situations, support programs exist to help minimize the negative long-term business impacts that result from the lack of water. These programs are offered by the following Federal and State agencies:

Grants

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Funds are available statewide to install a number of conservation practices, including irrigation efficiency, cover crops, rehabilitation of existing spring developments, protection of grazing lands, and other supporting components. To locate an office near you, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA>.

More information about NRCS/CA drought program is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/features>.

USDA Rural Development (RD)

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG) – This program assists rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent, to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets the standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. To locate an office near you, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA>.

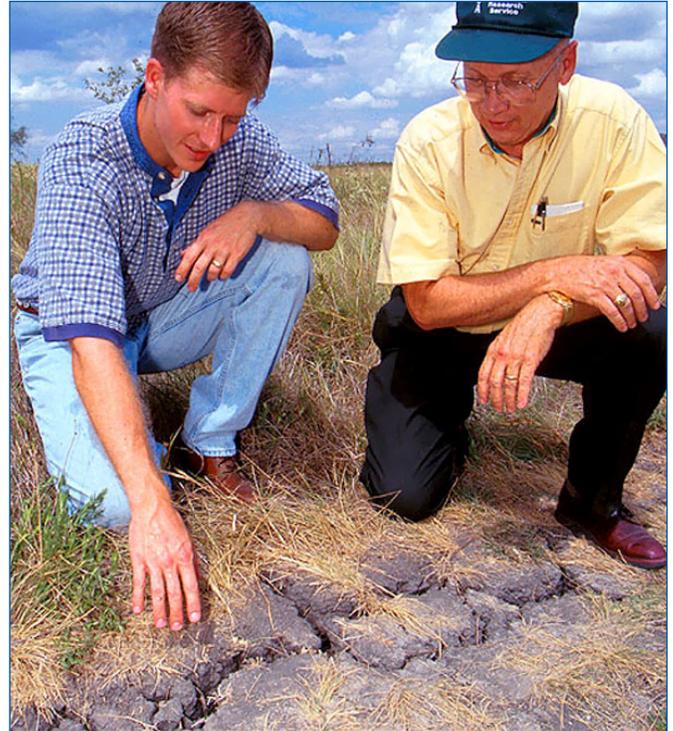


Photo: USDA-NRCS

Loans/Insurance

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)

2014 Crop Insurance Policies and Provisions –

Producers who purchased crop insurance are covered for all natural causes of loss listed in their policies. Federal Crop Insurance Commission (FCIC) programs are administered by RMA and sold and serviced by private insurance companies. Policies are yield- and revenue-based and vary across commodities and regions. Crop insurance is offered for 35 of California's more than 400 commodities.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

\$50,000 Microloan Program through FSA – This program offers direct farm-operating loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche-type operations. The fact sheet Microloans is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/microloans_eng_jan2013.pdf.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

This program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when yields/inventory are less than 50% of expected or more than 35% of planting is prevented due to natural disasters, including drought. March 1 is deadline for tomatoes, green beans, herbs, squash, carrots, peppers, and Brussels sprouts. Producer must apply for coverage by the application deadline and pay a service fee. Producers with a three-year non-farm average adjusted gross income greater than \$500,000 are not eligible. Find your county Farm Service Agency office at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA>.

Emergency Farm Loans

This program provides emergency loans to help assist producers with restoring/replacing essential property, production cost during a disaster year, and refinancing debt and business/living expenses. Eligibility is restricted to producers within counties designated as disaster areas by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. Loans are limited to \$500,000. Residents of all California counties may apply.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

This program provides up to 75% of costs, capped at \$200,000, to help farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. Funding is provided to remove debris from farmland, restore livestock fences and conservation structures, and grade and shape farmland damaged by the natural disaster. FSA county committees determine eligibility based on on-site inspections. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if unattended, would: impair or endanger the land; materially affect the land's productive capacity; represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area and; be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Residents of Alpine, Del Norte, Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Diego counties are not eligible to apply for this program.

Disaster Set-Aside Program

This program provides producers who have existing direct loans with FSA who are unable to make the scheduled payments to move up to one full year's payment to the end of the loan. Residents of Imperial County must apply to this program by February 26.

Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program Acreage (CRP)

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought or similar natural disaster. The program allows producers with existing CRP contracts to apply to hay or graze CRP acreage in counties approved for Emergency Haying and Grazing. Producers must seek approval from their county Farm Service Agency office prior to starting the haying or grazing of CRP acreage. The haying and grazing must occur outside the Primary Nesting Season, which is April 1 through June 1, 2014. Only residents of Monterey (haying only), San Luis Obispo, and Siskiyou counties are eligible to apply for this program.

USDA Rural Development (RD)

Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program – Community Facilities Programs provide loans, grants, and loan guarantees for essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, parishes, boroughs, and special-purpose districts, as well as to nonprofit corporations and tribal governments.

ATTRA Publications

Conserving Irrigation Water and Water Quality

Energy Saving Tips for Irrigators (IP278), 16 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=119>

Maintaining Irrigation Pumps, Motors, and Engines (IP299), 16 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=112>

Measuring and Conserving Irrigation Water (IP280), 12 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=332>

Soil Moisture Monitoring: Low-Cost Tools and Methods (IP277), 12 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=111>

The California Microirrigation Pocket Guide: Equipment Maintenance and Water Management (IP415).

Cost: \$16.95. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=367>

Drought-Resilient Production Practices: Grazing

Converting Cropland to Perennial Grassland (IP244), 12 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=108>

Irrigated Pastures: Setting Up an Intensive Grazing System That Works (IP456), 4 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=449>

Managed Grazing in Riparian Areas (IP223), 28 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=116>

No-Till Case Study, Miller Farm: Restoring Grazing Land with Cover Crops (IP444), 8 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=422>

No-Till Case Study, Richter Farm: Cover Crop Cocktails in a Forage-Based System (IP437), 8 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=417>

Pasture for Organic Ruminant Livestock: Understanding and Implementing the National Organic Program (NOP) Pasture Rule (IP374), 32 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=360>

Protecting Riparian Areas: Farmland Management Strategies (IP186), 36 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=115>

Why Intensive Grazing on Irrigated Pastures? (IP457), 2 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=448>

Drought-Resilient Production Practices: Crops

Agriculture, Climate Change and Carbon Sequestration (IP338), 16 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=297>

Biochar and Sustainable Agriculture (IP358), 12 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=322>

Conservation Tillage (CT105), 37 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=106>

Drought Resistant Soil (IP169), 7 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=118>

El Manejo Sostenible del Suelo (*Sustainable Soil Management*, Spanish version, SP027), 40 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=282>

Life-Cycle Assessment in Agricultural Systems (IP447), 24 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=457>

No-Till Case Study, Bauer Farm: Cover Crop Cocktails on Former CRP Land (IP442), 8 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=420>

No-Till Case Study, Brown's Ranch: Improving Health Improves the Bottom Line (IP440), 8 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=414>

Overview of Cover Crops and Green Manures (IP024), 16 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=288>

Organic Matters Series: Pursuing Conservation Tillage Systems for Organic Crop Production (IP183), 28 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=107>

Protecting Water Quality on Organic Farms (IP214), 36 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=114>

Sustainable Soil Management (IP027), 31 pages. <https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=183>

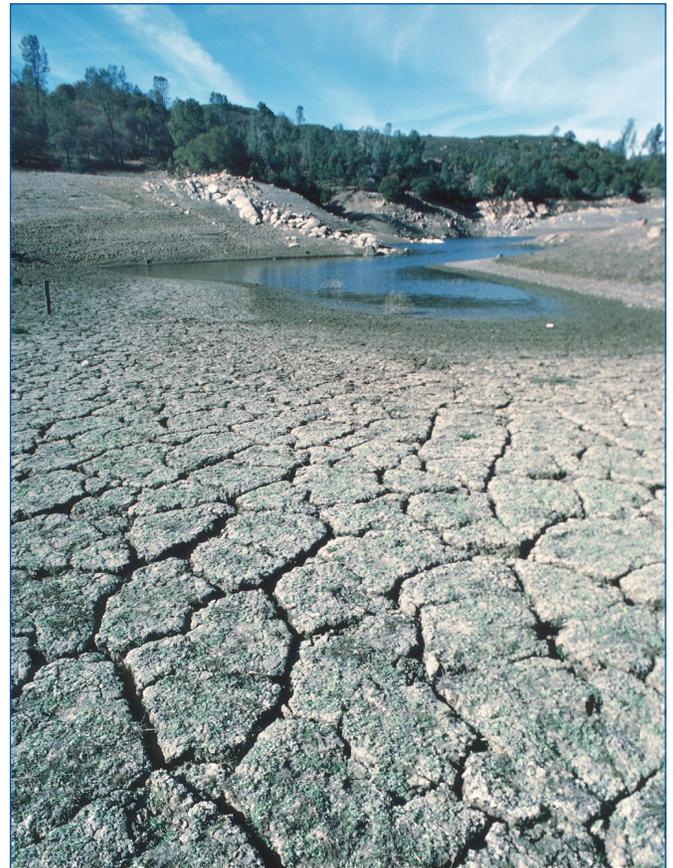


Photo: USDA-NRCS

ATTRA PowerPoint Presentations

Available at https://attra.ncat.org/water_quality.html

Drought Introduction

Provides an introduction to droughts, impacts on soils, crops, and animals with an overview of management practices to lessen the impacts of drought.

Soil Health and Drought

Focuses on soil management and tillage practices to conserve water and maintain conditions for productive crop and forage growth during droughts.

Pasture Health and Drought Protection

Focuses on rotational grazing practices and forage management to protect pasture resources prior to, during, and following a drought.

Irrigation

Discusses sustainable irrigation practices and methods for protecting soil and water quality when using irrigation.

Pasture and Rangeland Management During Drought

Describes supplement feeding practices, toxic plants, toxic syndromes associated with drought, animal management and selective culling to reduce stress on land resources.

Water, Heat Stress, and Drought

Focuses on animal water needs; water-quality concerns; relationships between water quality, feed quality, and water consumption; and factors affecting heat stress and practices for minimizing it.

Non-ATTRA Drought Resources, National

Agricultural Water Conservation Clearinghouse

<http://www.agwaterconservation.colostate.edu>

Farm Aid, Disaster Assistance for Farmers

<http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qII5IhNVJsE/b.2739785/apps/s/content.asp?ct=11229755>

National Drought Mitigation Center

<http://drought.unl.edu/>

Rainwater Harvesting

<http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/rainwater-harvesting-inforesources>

Non-ATTRA Resources: Grazing

Plant Poisonings in Livestock

<http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu/+symposium/proceedings/2008/08-51.pdf>

Plants Poisonous to Livestock in the Western States

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/PoisonousPlants/PoisonousPlants.pdf>

UC Cooperative Extension Educational Materials, Tools and Resources. http://ucanr.edu/sites/sfrec/Extension_and_Outreach_Programs_and_Materials/Drought_Workshop

FSA Livestock Forage Disaster Program Eligibility Tool

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/fsa/Home.aspx>

ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service

- Friendly staff, knowledgeable about livestock, horticulture, agronomy, organic farming, marketing, farm energy, and other sustainable agriculture topics.
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