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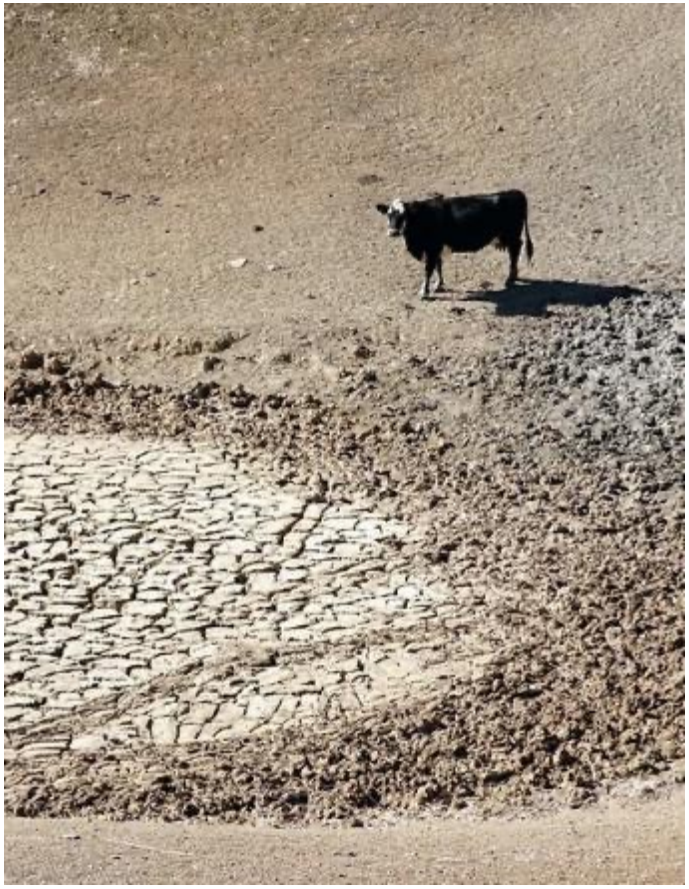

USDA Farm Service Agency:

Programs to Address Drought

Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov

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Programs Portfolio – Drought

- **LFP: Livestock Forage Disaster Program**
- **ELAP: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish**
- **CRP: Conservation Reserve Program – Emergency Haying and Grazing**
- ECP: Emergency Conservation Program
- TAP: Tree Assistance Program
- NAP: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- **Emergency Loans**
- **Disaster Set-Aside for Loans**

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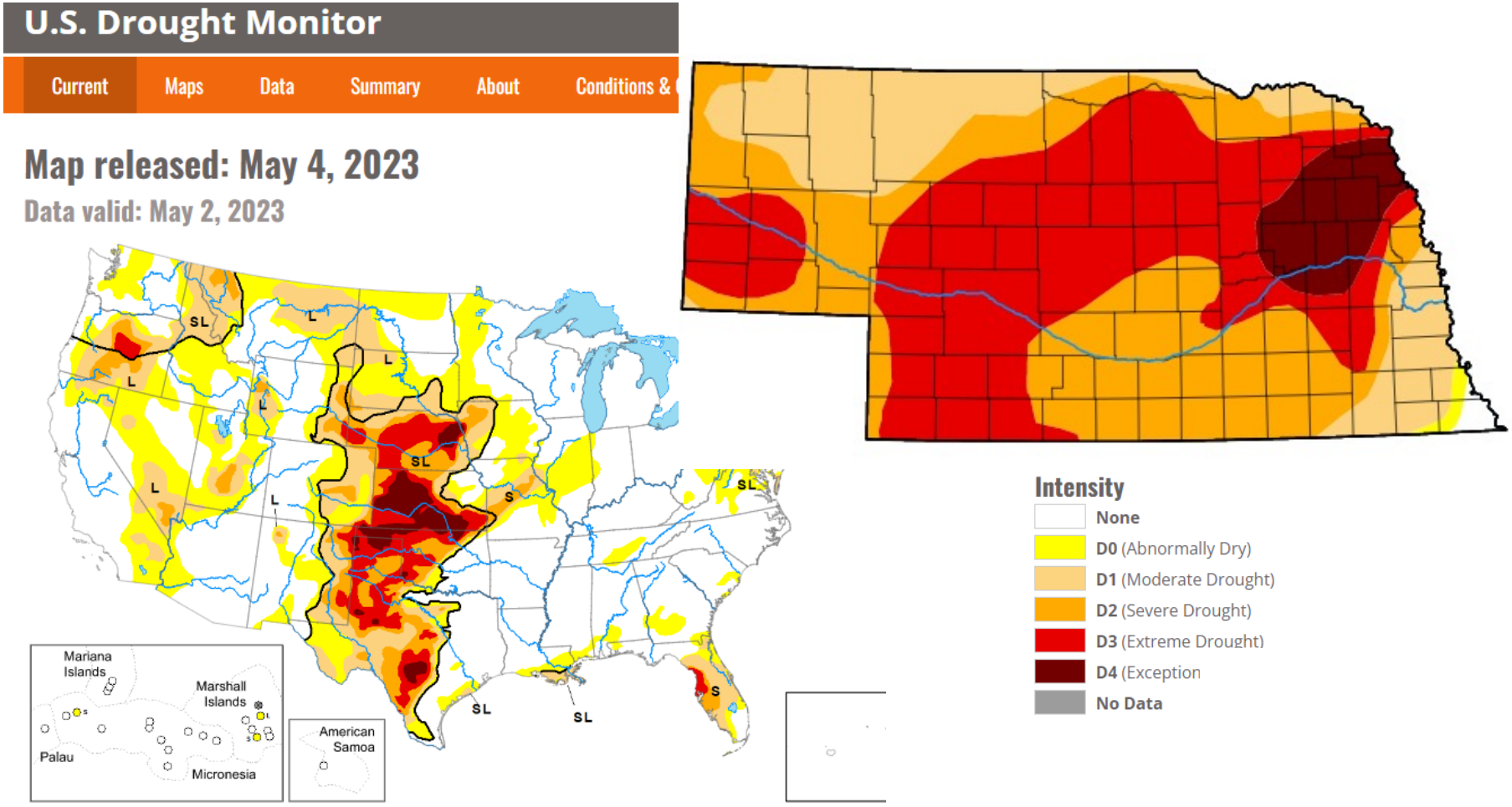
Triggering Mechanism – Drought



https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides financial assistance to livestock producers who are suffering a grazing loss due to an eligible drought condition, determined by the severity of drought according to the **U.S. Drought Monitor**.

Producer must have risk in eligible livestock and must have risk in eligible grazing lands as basic qualifiers for this program.

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Livestock Forage Disaster Program

- Eligible livestock are grazing animals
- Livestock must have been, or would have been, grazing eligible land during the normal grazing season
- Livestock must have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought
- Livestock must have been maintained for commercial purposes
- Feedlot animals are not eligible
- “Mitigated” livestock a consideration for multi-year drought locations

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Livestock Forage Disaster Program

- Eligible producers must provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land as of the date of the qualifying drought that is physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period

- Eligible producers must timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed

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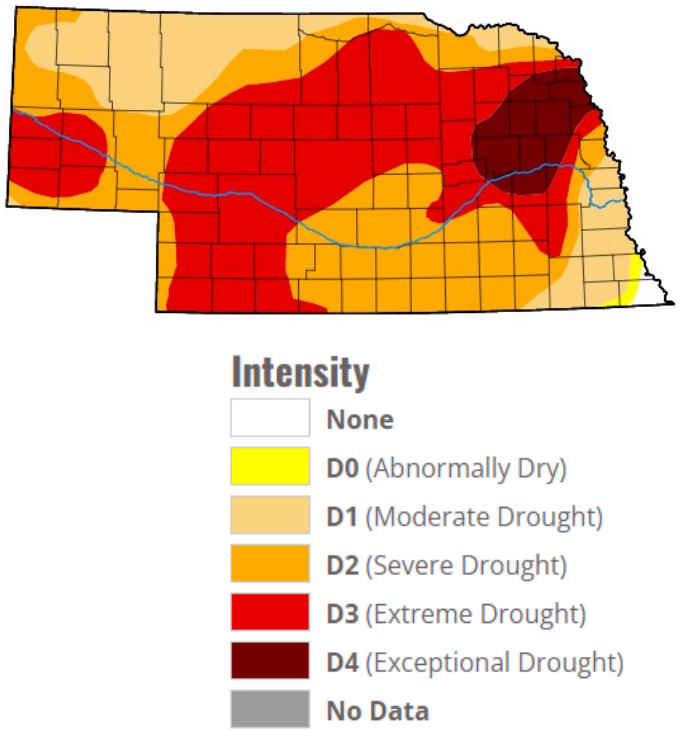
Livestock Forage Disaster Program

- The monthly payment factor is based on the drought intensity ratings for each county occurring during the normal grazing season.
  - D2 at 8 consecutive weeks – 1 month payment factor
  - D3 at any time – 3-month payment factor
  - D3 for 4 weeks – 4-month payment factor
  - D4 at any time – 4-month payment factor
  - D4 for 4 weeks – 5-month payment factor

- Beginning dates may be different for different eligible forage types (due to different grazing seasons for different forages)



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Questions on LFP

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Drought – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP)

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) has financial assistance available to producers who are facing drought conditions; this includes assistance such as:

- Livestock – Additional Mileage for Transporting Livestock Feed Above Normal
- Livestock – Additional Expense of Transporting Livestock to Feed
- Livestock – Water Transportation
- Honeybees – Additional Feed Purchased Above Normal

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ELAP: Additional Mileage for Transporting Livestock Feed Above Normal

- Eligible livestock must be grazing livestock maintained for commercial use
- Livestock must be owned, cash-leased, purchased, under contract for purchase or been raised by a contract grower during the 60 calendar days prior to the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition
- Livestock must be physically located in the county where the adverse weather occurred
- Producer must have both risk in eligible livestock and risk in eligible grazing land to participate in this component of the program
- Producer must be transporting in livestock feed additional miles above normal

ELAP: Additional Mileage for Transporting Livestock Feed Above Normal

- Reimburse producers for 60% of feed transportation costs above what normally would be incurred in a year (underserved would be 90%)
- Payment formula excludes the first 25 miles and distances above 1,000 miles
- The cost formula uses $6.60 per mile (before percentage is applied)
- Self-certification program, but producers should retain receipts, documentation
- CLARIFICATION from recorded presentation – Under this provision, the reimbursement only covers one-way transportation, so no reimbursement for empty miles

ELAP: Additional Expense of Hauling Livestock to Feed

- Reimburse producers for 60% of livestock transportation costs above what normally would be incurred in a year (underserved would be 90%)
- Payment formula excludes the first 25 miles and distances above 1,000 miles
- The cost formula uses $6.60 per mile (before percentage is applied)
- Self-certification program, but producers should retain receipts, documentation
- CLARIFICATION from recorded presentation – Under this provision, the reimbursement can be applied to transportation both ways

ELAP: Water Transportation

- Producer must have risk in both eligible livestock and eligible grazing land
- Water must be transported to eligible livestock on eligible grazing land
- Must have had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities before the adverse weather occurred and not normally require the transport of water by the producer
- Payments are for costs associated with water transport equipment fees, labor and contracted water transportation fees; does NOT include the cost of the water itself
- Payment formula uses a national average price per gallon to transport water, plus other factors

ELAP: Notification Window

Producer must notify FSA **within 30 days** of when the “loss” is apparent; those interested in accessing ELAP resources should contact their county FSA office as soon as they know they will be needing additional grazing or water resources

Questions on ELAP

2023 ELAP Livestock Feed Transportation Example

Mr. Smith grazes livestock in Dundee County on native pasture that he owns. In a normal year, Mr. Smith hauls 10 loads of cornstalk bales for feed from Mr. Jones, who lives 35 miles away.

Due to the drought in 2023, Mr. Smith was not able to purchase cornstalk bales from Mr. Jones and had to purchase them from Mr. Johnson in South Dakota. Mr. Smith had to haul his 10 loads of bales 225 miles, instead of the usual 35 miles.

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Drought - Conservation Reserve Program Emergency Haying/Grazing

Emergency haying or grazing of CRP approved cover is allowed when:

- All or part of the county is designated as D2 (severe drought) or greater for one week according the U.S. Drought Monitor; or
- There is a 40% loss in forage production in the county in which CRP acreage is physically located; or
- USDA determines that CRP can assist in response to a natural disaster event without long-term damage to established cover
- **It is critical that those interested contact their county FSA office regarding implementation**

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Conservation Reserve Program Emergency Haying/Grazing

- No rental payment reduction applied
- Must request and receive approval in **writing** from FSA before haying or grazing
- Must not hay and graze the same acreage in the same program year
- May rent or lease (or provide without charge) the haying or grazing privilege to another producer
- Is influenced by the primary nesting season, which in Nebraska is May 1-July 15

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Questions on CRP emergency hay and graze

Emergency Loan Program

- Available in counties designated by the President or Secretary of Ag as natural disasters or counties contiguous to those designated as such
- Available to those who have suffered at least a 30 % loss in crop production
- Available to those who are unable to receive credit from commercial sources
- Can be used to restore or replace essential property, pay production costs, pay essential family living expenses, refinance certain debts
- Maximum loan amount of $500,000

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Disaster Set-Aside Program

- Available in counties designated by the President or Secretary of Ag as natural disasters or counties contiguous to those designated as such

- Allows existing FSA farm loan customers to set aside one payment (to the end of amortization period) if they cannot make such payment as a result of the disaster

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Questions on Emergency Loan Program

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For More Information

www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought

www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

Contact your FSA county office –
office locator information at offices.usda.gov

Farm Service Agency
fsa.usda.gov

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Trigger Dates, Stocking Rates and Records

By: Shannon Sand
Ag Economics Extension Educator

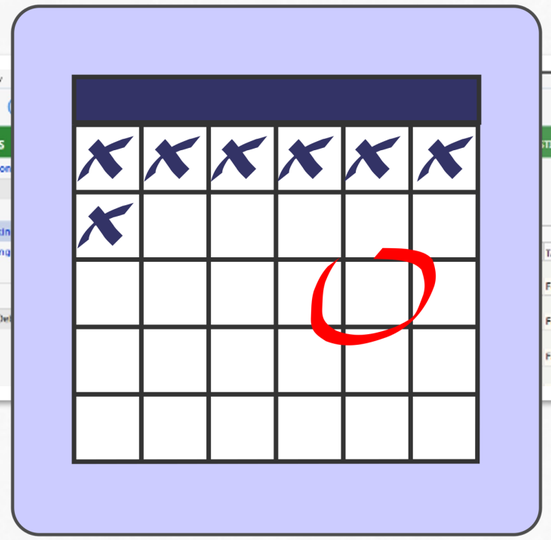
IN OUR GRIT, OUR GLORY™

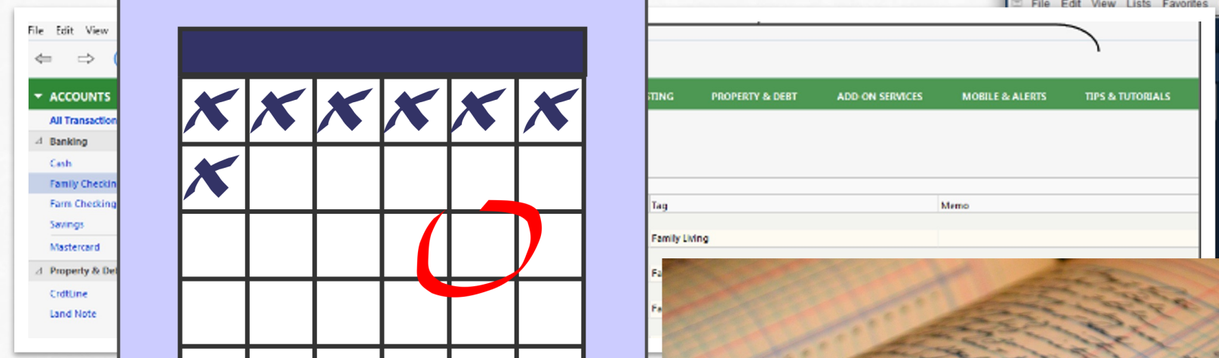
Trigger Dates and Stocking Rates

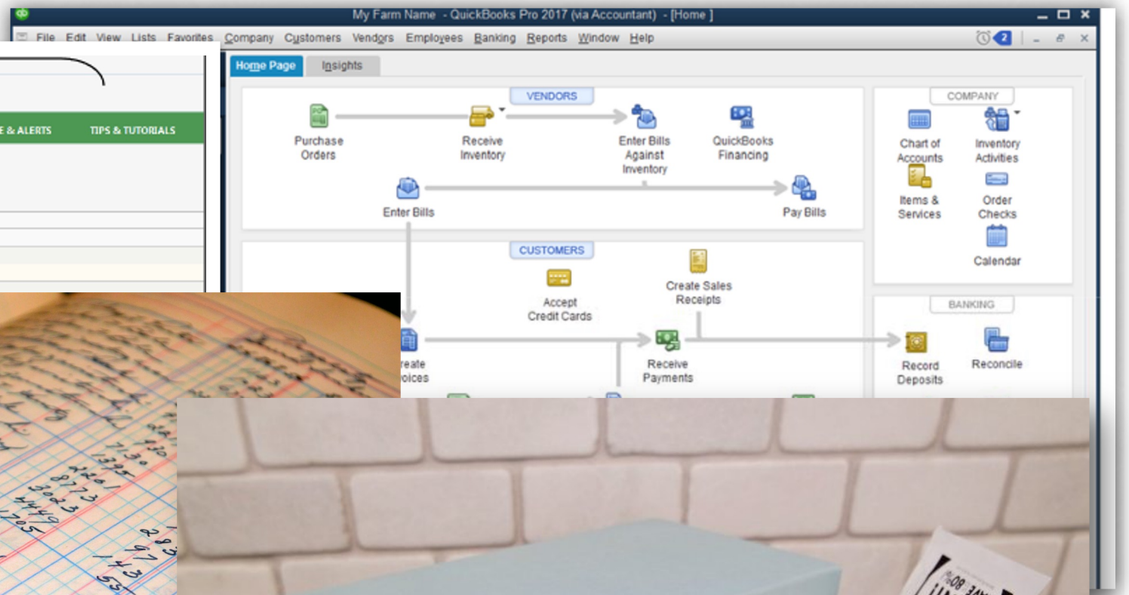
- April 1
- April 15- May 10
- May 20-June 10
- June 15-June 30
- June 15-July 15
- July 15
- September 1-September 15

Records

Record Keeping







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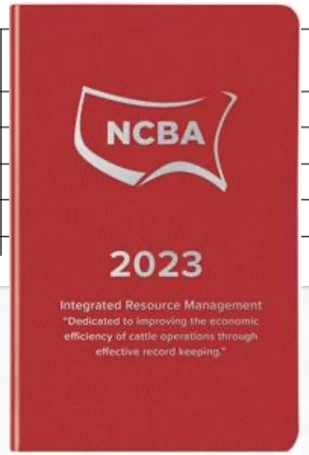
EXPENSES

Date						



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- https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index
- https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index
- https://beef.unl.edu/beefwatch/2022/drought-planning-trigger-dates

Livestock Stored, Harvested or Purchased Feed Loss Documentation

- date of feed purchase
- name, address, and telephone number of feed vendor
- type and quantity of feed purchased
- cost of feed purchased and signature of feed vendor if no license to conduct this type of transaction