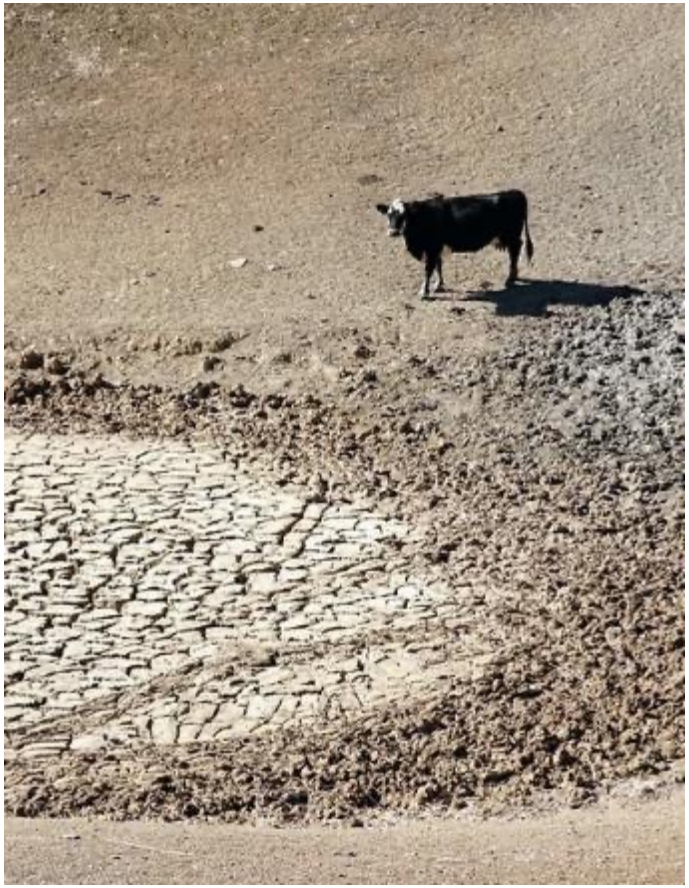
USDA United States Department of Agriculture



USDA Farm Service Agency:

Programs to Address Drought

Farm Service Agency

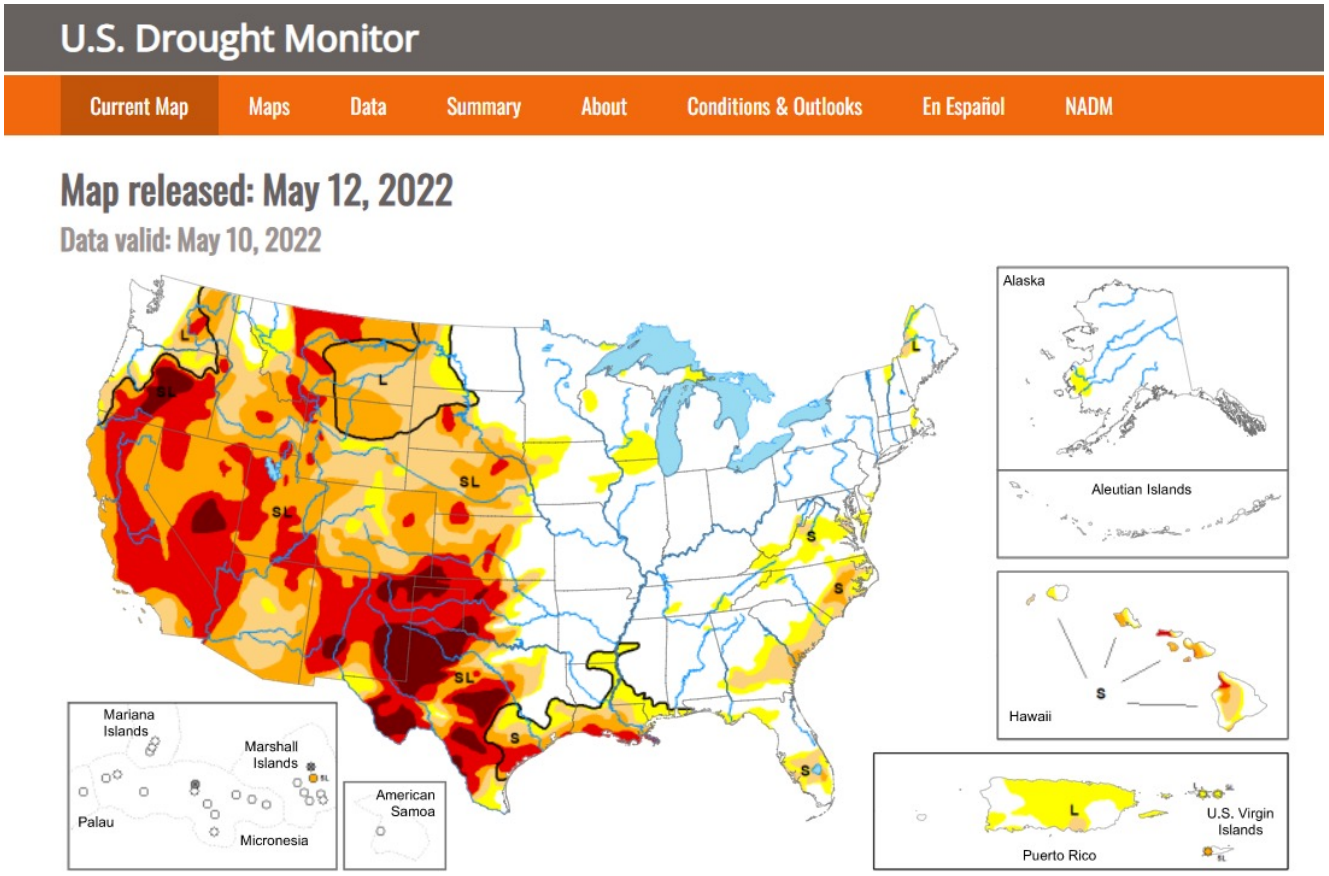
fsa.usda.gov

Programs Portfolio – Drought

- LFP: Livestock Forage Disaster Program
- ELAP: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish
- ECP: Emergency Conservation Program
- CRP: Conservation Reserve Program
- TAP: Tree Assistance Program
- NAP: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Triggering Mechanism – Drought



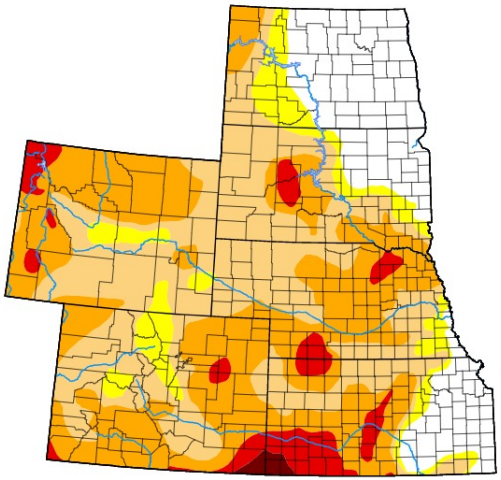
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

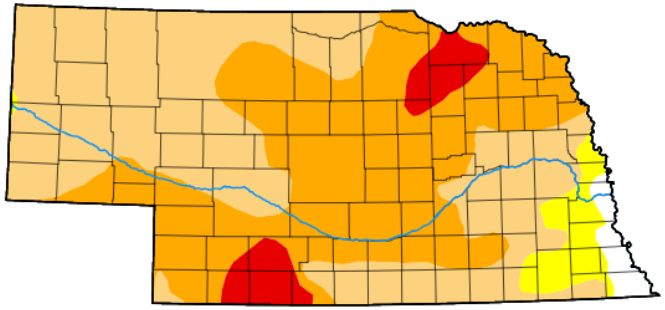
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Triggering Mechanism – Drought

High Plains





Map released: Thurs. May 12, 2022

Data valid: May 10, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying **text summary** for forecast statements.*

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Eligible Livestock:

- Livestock that are grazing animals, such as beef cattle, buffalo/bison, dairy cattle, deer, equine, goats, llamas, sheep, and others
- 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

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Eligible Producers:

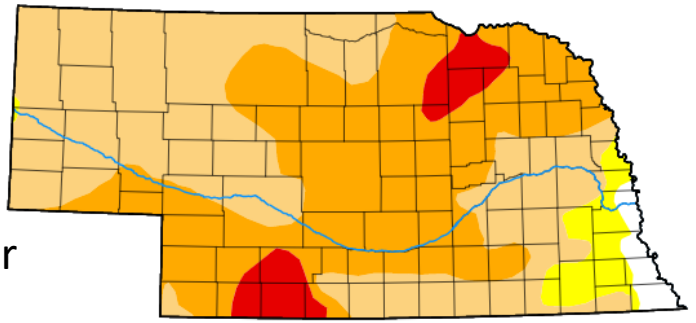
- Must own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower, of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought
- Must provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land as of the date of the qualifying drought that is physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period
- Must certify that they have suffered a grazing loss due to drought
- Must timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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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- No Data

Authors

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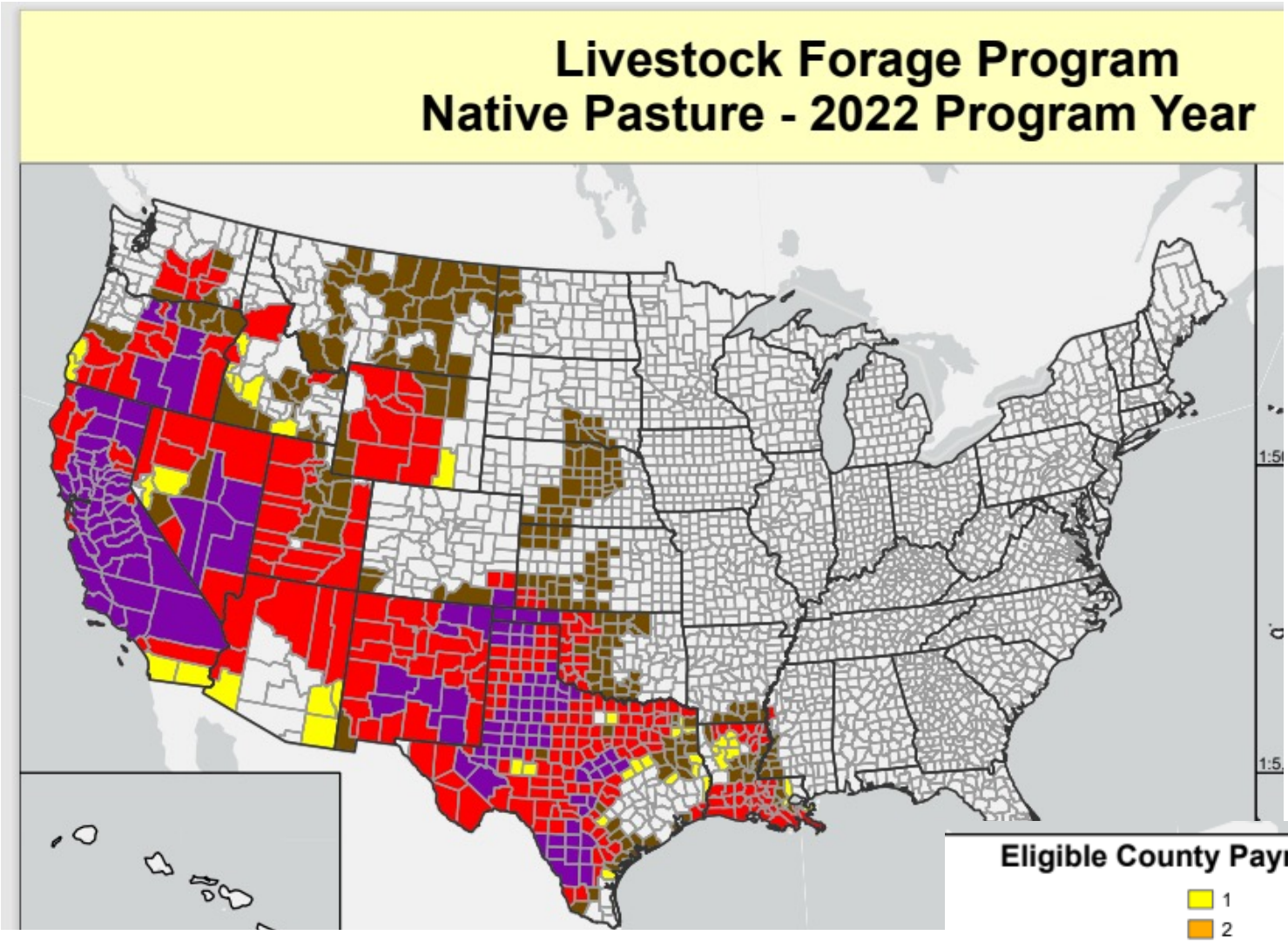
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Livestock Forage Program
Native Pasture - 2022 Program Year



FSA posts maps of counties that have triggered for LFP. These are posted weekly. This is the map from May 5.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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:

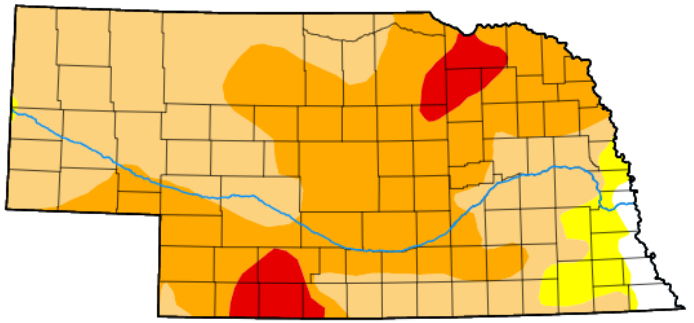
- Livestock – Water Transportation
- Livestock – Additional Mileage for Transporting Livestock Feed Above Normal (NEW since 2021)
- Livestock – Additional Expense of Transporting Livestock to Feed (NEW, retroactive to 2021)
- Honeybees – Additional Feed Purchased Above Normal

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ELAP – U.S. Drought Monitor Loss Condition

An eligible drought means an area of a county has been rated as having D2 (severe drought) intensity for at least 8 consecutive weeks, OR D3 (extreme drought), OR D4 (exceptional drought) intensity for the specific type of eligible grazing land or pastureland for the county at **any time during the normal grazing period**.*****

***For ELAP drought definition for honeybee assistance, D3 or D4 **any time during the program year.**



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Intensity

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- D2 (Severe Drought)
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- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center

ELAP – Eligible Livestock

- Cattle, buffalo, equine, goats, sheep, others maintained for commercial use
- 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
- Must have had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities before the adverse weather occurred (ELAP water hauling)
- Must not normally require the transport of water by the producer (ELAP water hauling)

ELAP: Water Transportation

ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who are transporting water to eligible livestock that are on eligible grazing land due to an eligible drought condition.

Producer must have risk in both eligible livestock and eligible grazing land.

Water must be transported to eligible livestock on eligible grazing land.

There is a two-step process to receiving benefits:

- Step 1: Timely file the notice(s) of loss (within 30 days of the loss being apparent)
- Step 2: Timely file the application(s) for payment (by Jan. 30 of following calendar year)

ELAP: Water Transportation

- 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

Method of Transporting Water	National Average Price per Gallon
Personal labor/equipment	$0.035
Hired labor/rented equipment	$0.05
Contracted water transportation	$0.07

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ELAP: Additional Mileage for Transporting Livestock Feed Above Normal

ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who are transporting livestock feed additional mileage above normal to eligible livestock due to an eligible drought condition.

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.

There is a two-step process to receiving benefits:

- Step 1: Timely file the notice(s) of loss (within 30 days of the loss being apparent)
- Step 2: Timely file the application(s) for payment (by Jan. 30 of following calendar year)

Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov

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
- For 2021, the cost formula used $6.60 per mile (before percentage is applied)
- Self-certification program, but producers should retain receipts, documentation

ELAP: Additional Expense of Hauling Livestock to Feed

- **NEW** – Provision just announced last month
- Financial assistance for partial covering of cost to haul livestock to new location for feed due to insufficient feed resources in drought-impacted area
- **Policy change retroactive to 2021 drought** – **DEADLINE OF JUNE 30 for 2021 losses**
- Policy in place going forward
- Contact your county FSA office with questions

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ELAP: Honeybee Additional Feed Purchased Above Normal

ELAP provides financial assistance to honeybee producers who must purchase additional feed above normal to sustain their colonies through an eligible loss condition until additional feed becomes available.

Contact your county FSA office with questions about ELAP for honeybees.

Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Drought – Emergency Conservation Program

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is a cost-share assistance program.

Under drought conditions it may be used to provide emergency water to grazing and confined livestock (but not feedlot animals) and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards.

ECP implementation for drought is based on FSA County Committee submitting evidence that the county precipitation levels indicate an average of 40 percent or greater loss of normal precipitation for the 4 most recent months.

Emergency Conservation Program

Water conservation and enhancement measures are limited to the following:

- Those needed to permit livestock grazing of range, pasture, forage
- Supply emergency water for existing irrigation systems serving orchards and vineyards
- Only farms/ranches that had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities or adequate irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards before the drought are eligible for C/S assistance
- A drought-related problem must exist, and the approved practice must be installed primarily to deal with the drought-related problem

Emergency Conservation Program

Water conservation and enhancement measures are limited to the following (cont.):

- There must be adequate permanent range or pasture residue for livestock in the area to be served by a proposed water facility at the time of the request; distribution of livestock watering facilities should help prevent overgrazing of pasture
- Pump equipment and adequate storage facilities must be provided when wells are installed
- Solar-based and wind-based power sources are eligible only when determined to be the least costly alternative to FSA within the lifespan of a practice in providing water for livestock
- Cost share is up to 75% of cost to implement approved practice; can be up to 90% for socially-disadvantaged producers or beginners
- Limit of $500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Drought - Conservation Reserve Program Emergency Haying/Grazing

Emergency haying or grazing of CRP approved cover is allowed on ALL practices outside of the primary nesting season 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**

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

Conservation Reserve Program Emergency Haying/Grazing

- Emergency grazing is eligible on all practices and at 100 percent of contract acreage; grazing duration can be utilized for up to 90 consecutive days or a total of 90 days before or after the Primary Nesting Season (if the county is still eligible for emergency grazing at that time). Grazing must be stopped when the minimum grazing height is reached, as established within the CRP conservation plan for the acres.
- Emergency haying is eligible on all practices and at 100 percent of contract acreage, as long as the stand is in condition to support such activity. Haying is limited to one cutting and must be completed within 60 days from receiving the approved conservation plan modification to allow haying. Bales must be removed to ensure there is no long-term damage to cover.
- **Note that with CRP emergency haying and grazing – if the county at any point meets the Livestock Forage Program trigger, the parameters for what is allowed for CRP emergency haying and grazing change with restrictions on grazing carrying capacity and restrictions on the practices and percent which can be hayed. Under LFP grazing can occur during PNS, with restrictions.**

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Drought - Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines lost by natural disasters, including drought.

- Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes; nursery tree examples include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees
- A stand of eligible trees, bushes or vines must have suffered more than a 15% mortality loss, after normal mortality, due to natural disaster; loss must not have been preventable through reasonable and available measures
- Must replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from date of approved application
- Payment formula based on a percentage of actual cost of replanting

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Drought - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops that suffer lower yields or losses or prevented planting due to a natural disaster. Drought is included as an eligible natural disaster.

Non-insurable crop includes those for which commercial insurance is not available; producers should check with a local crop insurance agent on insurance availability.

Crop must be produced for commercial purposes, and be grown for food or planted and grown for livestock consumption (such as grain and forage crops, including native forage); specialty crops

Examples can include fruits and vegetables, forage crops/pasture/grass, millet, oats, dry peas, others

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

- NAP provides basic coverage equivalent to the catastrophic level risk protection plan of insurance coverage, which is based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50 percent of expected production at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop.
- Buy-up coverage is available, ranging from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. (no buy-up option for grazing crops)
- Buy-up coverage must be elected by a producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee.
- For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. ***

Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

- Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained; the application and service fee must be filed by the application closing date
- **Nebraska's application closing dates for coverage in 2022 are past.**
- Nebraska's application closing date for coverage **in 2023** for a number of crops is coming up in November:
    - Alfalfa, mixed forages, grass
    - Apples, aronia berries, grapes

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Programs Portfolio – Wildfire

- **LIP**: Livestock Indemnity Program
- **ELAP**: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program
- **ECP**: Emergency Conservation Program

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

On the Horizon: Emergency Relief Program

- Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act - signed into law last September; assistance being rolled out now, but for losses in previous years

- Provides $10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms **and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021**

- Additionally, the Act specifically targets $750 million to provide assistance to livestock producers for losses incurred due to drought or wildfires **in calendar year 2021**

On the Horizon: Emergency Relief Program

Emergency Livestock Relief Program Phase 1

- **Already rolled out;** additional payment made to those who had completed Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) applications for 2021 assistance
- No new application necessary
- Received 75% (or 90% for certain categories of producers) of 2021 payment

Emergency Livestock Relief Program Phase 2

- Coming, but still under review by FSA and no details are available to Nebraska FSA at this time

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

On the Horizon: Emergency Relief Program

Emergency Relief Program For Crops

- Two-phased process to provide assistance to diversified, row crop and specialty crop operations impacted by an eligible natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 or 2021
- First phase in the coming weeks – will use existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program data as the basis for calculating initial payments
- Second phase of the crop program will be intended to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs
- No details known by Nebraska FSA at this time

For more information on Emergency Relief Program:
www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-relief

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

For More Information

www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery

Type

offices.usda.gov

into your internet browser to find your local office

Nebraska FSA State Office

(402) 437-5581

Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Response to Drought

Two main functions:

- Assist agency response to drought declaration
- Support USDA participants with program and technical assistance

Assist agency response to drought declaration:

- Roadside surveys to document production loss
- Collaborate with UNL and FSA to assess drought
- Survey local producers with drought losses

- Report to Local Food and Agriculture Council (LFAC)

- Forward to the State Food and Agriculture Council (SFAC)

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) for drought

Program highlights:

- Remove debris from stream channels roads and culverts
- Reshaped eroded streambanks
- Correct or repair damaged drainage facilities
- Establish vegetative cover on drought ravaged lands
- Repair levees and structures
- Repairs certain conservation practices
- Program initiated by local sponsor not an individual

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)drought practices

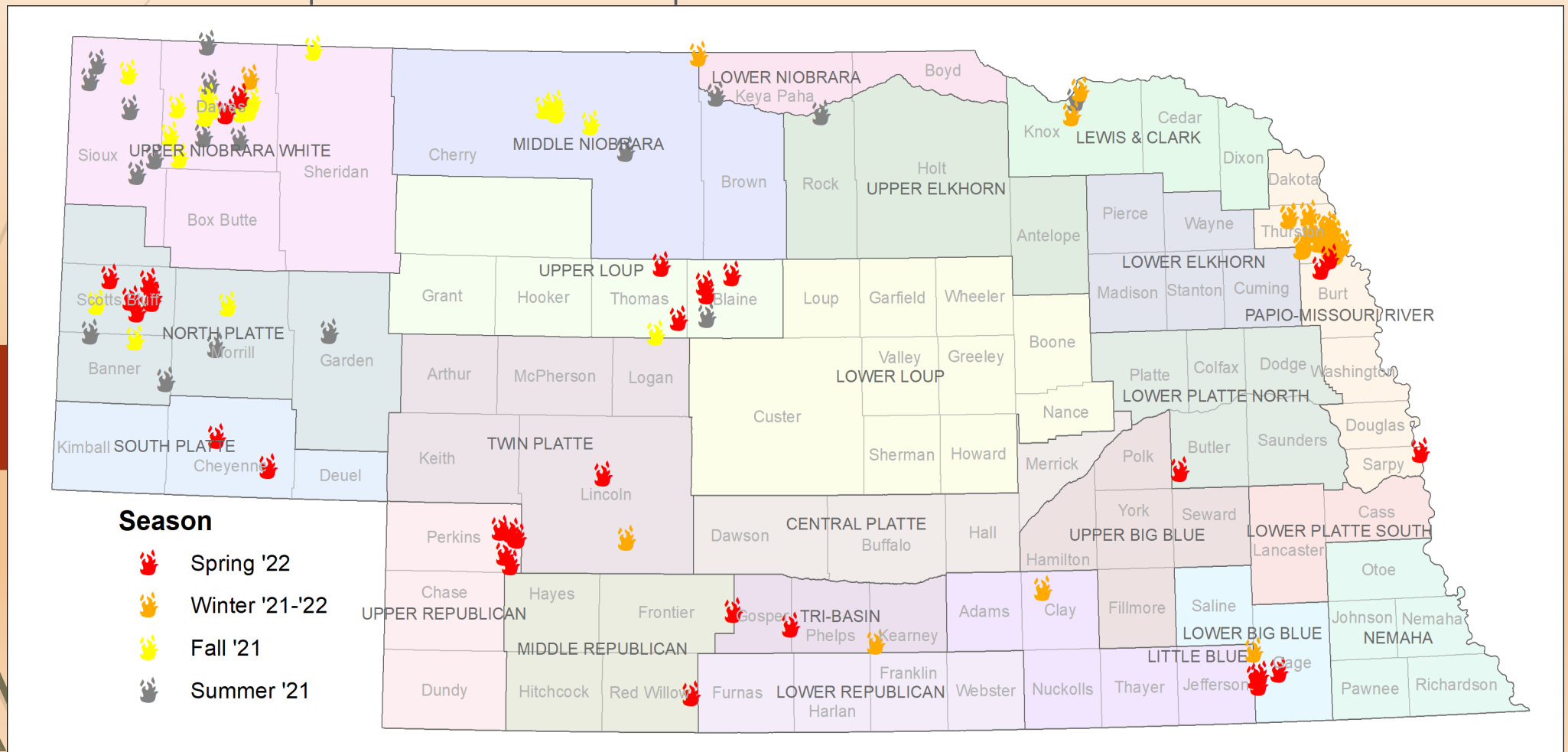
- Rewards you for land stewardship and enhancing your farming operation

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Structural Practices
- Management Practices
- Disaster Assistance Practices

EQIP Disaster assistance through the Road 739 Wildfire Assistance Initiative

- Eligible practices: Pasture/ Rangeland – Prescribed Grazing
- Cropland – Cover Crop



EQIP pasture/range drought practices

- Deferred Grazing, Pond, Well, Watering Facility, Livestock Pipeline

EQIP pasture/range drought practices

- Well, pump, solar array, watering facility

EQIP pasture/range drought practices

- Fence, Prescribed grazing

EQIP cropland drought practices

- No-Till / conservation crop rotation

EQIP cropland drought practices

- Irrigation practices, sub surface drip, micro irrigation, sprinkler irrigation

EQIP cropland drought practices

- Irrigation Water Management, Irrigated to Dryland Land Conversion

Soil Health and Drought

Healthy soils have Increased water infiltration and better water holding capacity

Less wind and water erosion after better soil health including no-till, conservation crop rotation and cover crops

Healthy drought resistant soils

Graze cover crops

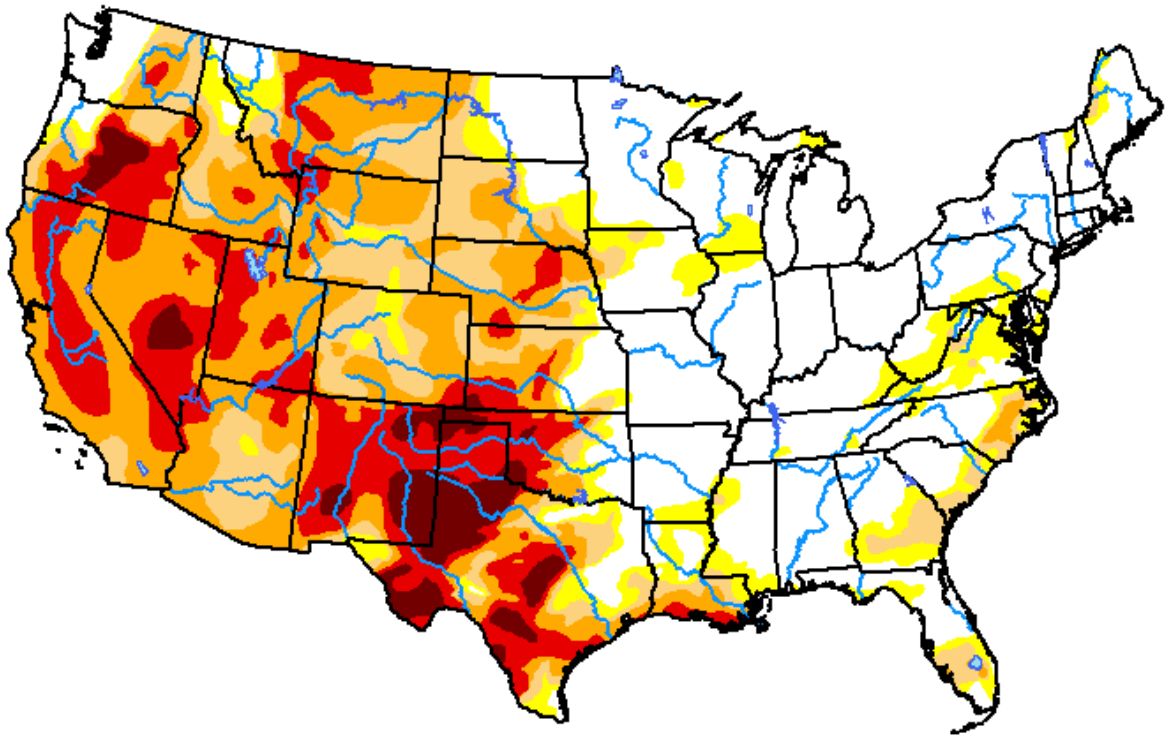
U.S. Drought Monitor

Contiguous U.S. (CONUS)

May 3, 2022

(Released Thursday, May. 5, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 10, 2022

(Released Thursday, May. 12, 2022)

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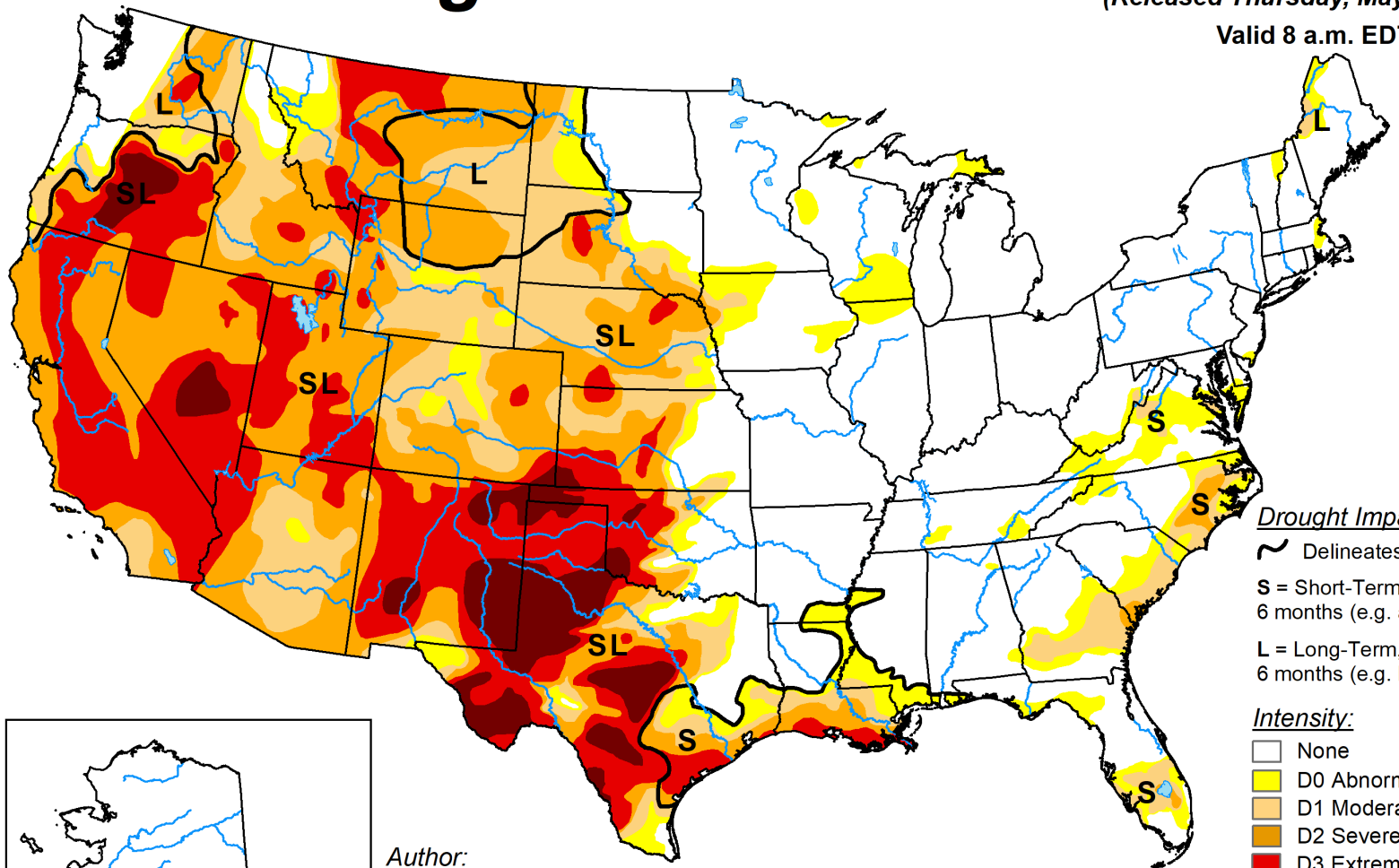

Drought Impact Types:

~ Delineates dominant impacts

S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)

L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- None
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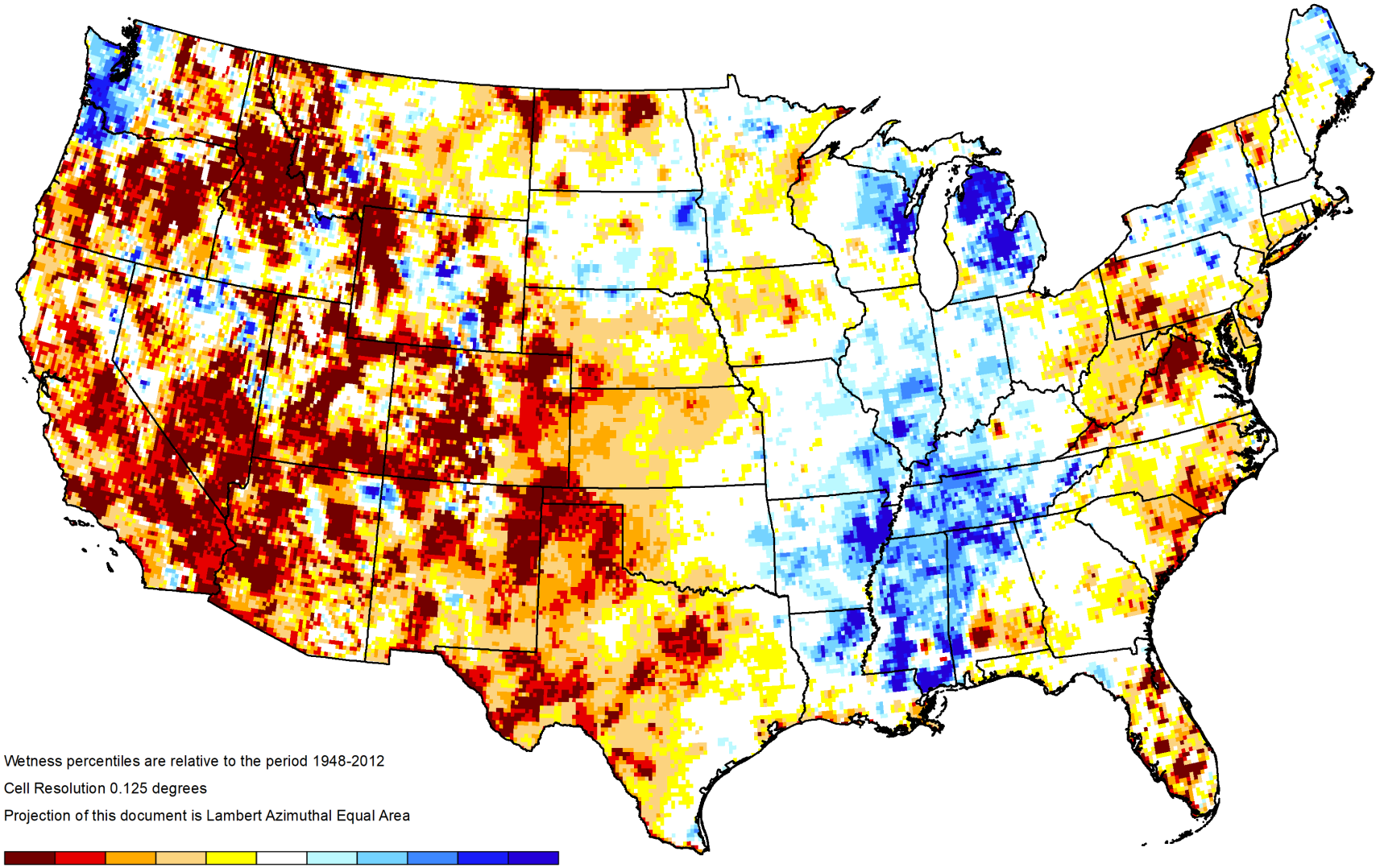
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

EXTENSION

GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

May 02, 2022



Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012

Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees

Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area

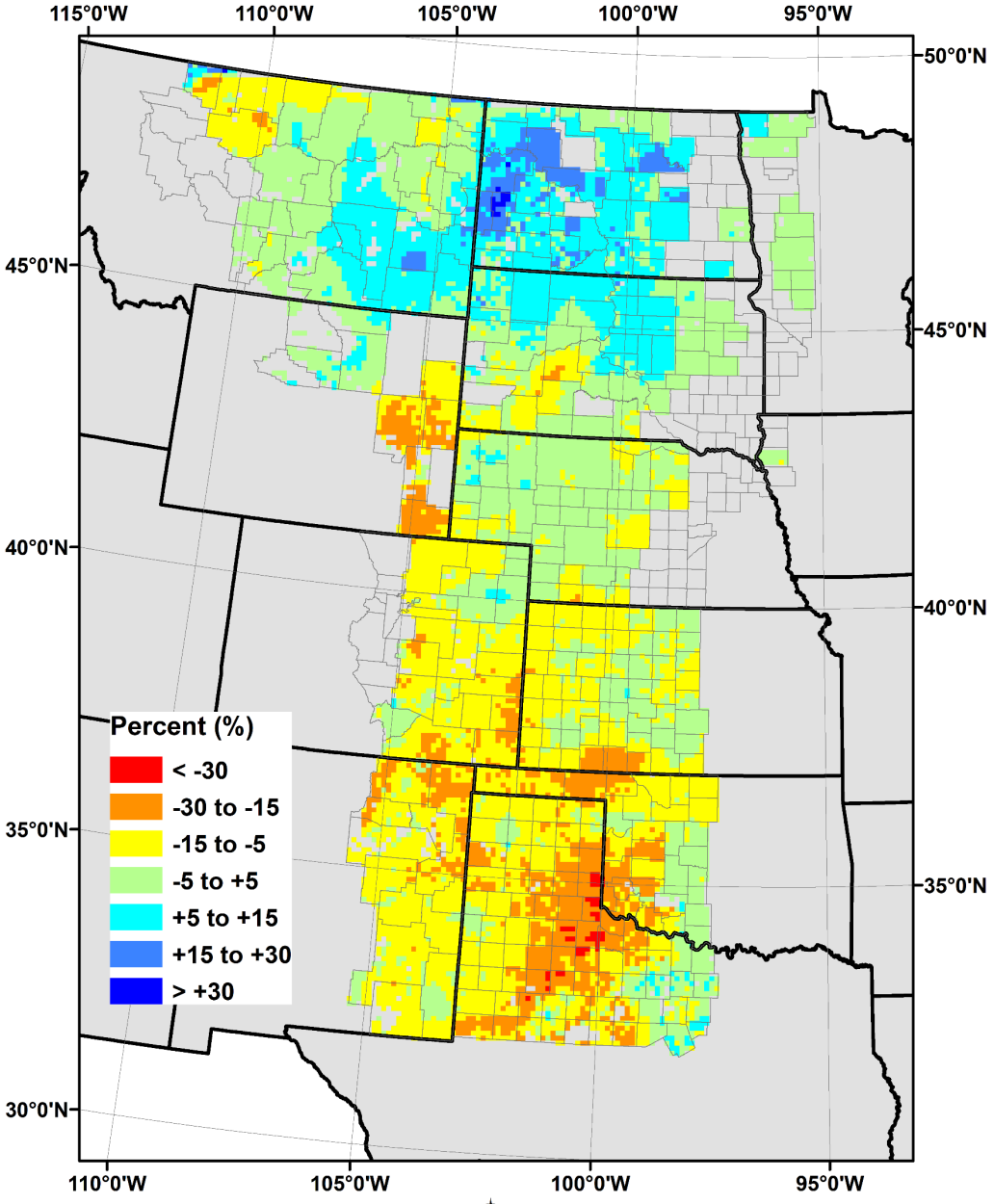
2 5 10 20 30 70 80 90 95 98

Wetness Percentile

https://nasagrace.unl.edu

EXTENSION

Percent Change in 2022 Predicted ANPP compared to 38-year mean ANPP
Assuming NORMAL Precipitation from May 3 to August 31

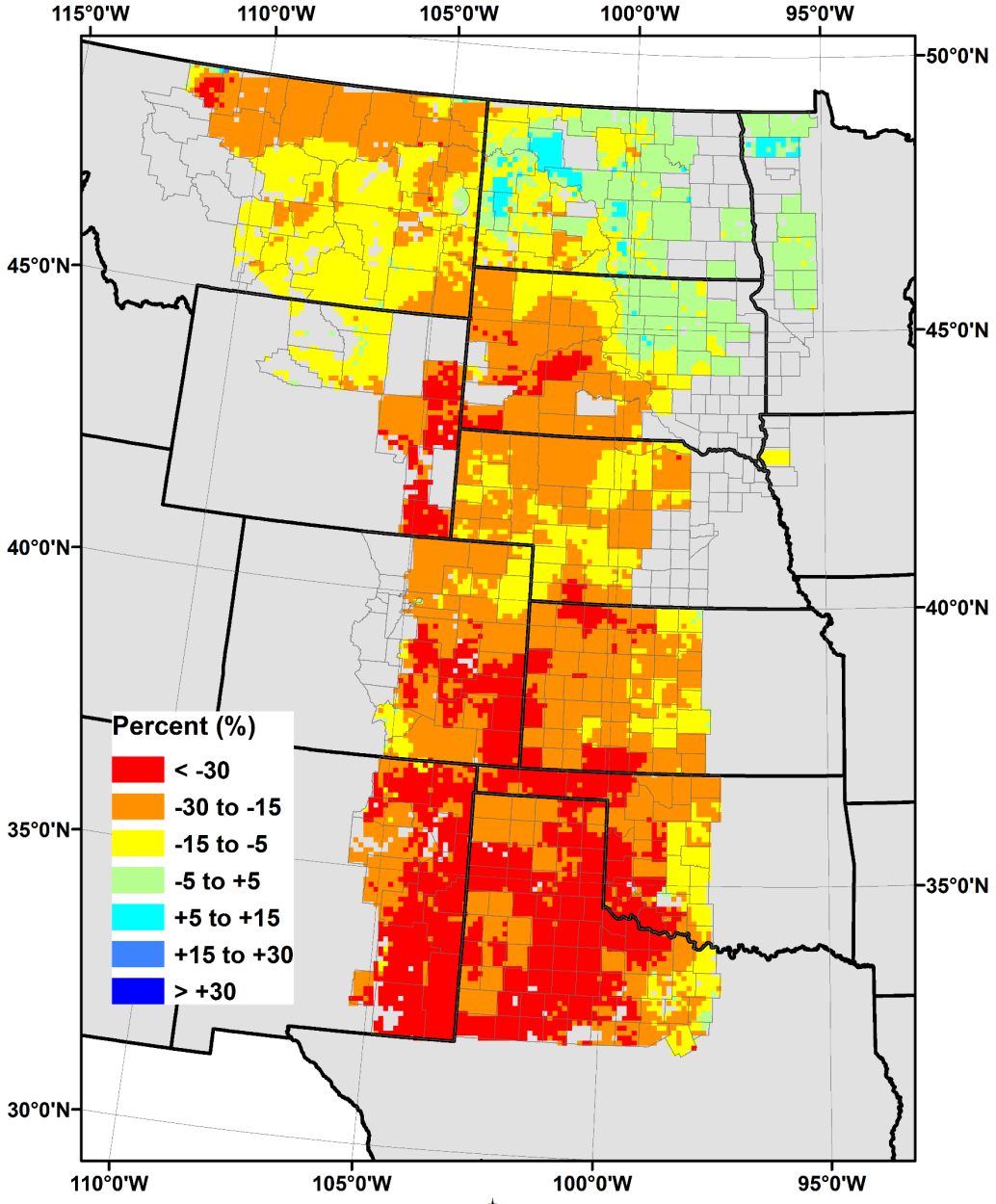


Forecast made: May 3, 2022

220 110 0 220 440 660 880
Kilometers

Document Name:
ANPP_forecast_summary_GP_2022_May03_avg
Date: 5/3/2022
Map produced by M.D. Hartman

Percent Change in 2022 Predicted ANPP compared to 38-year mean ANPP
Assuming BELOW NORMAL Precipitation from May 3 to August 31



Forecast made: May 3, 2022

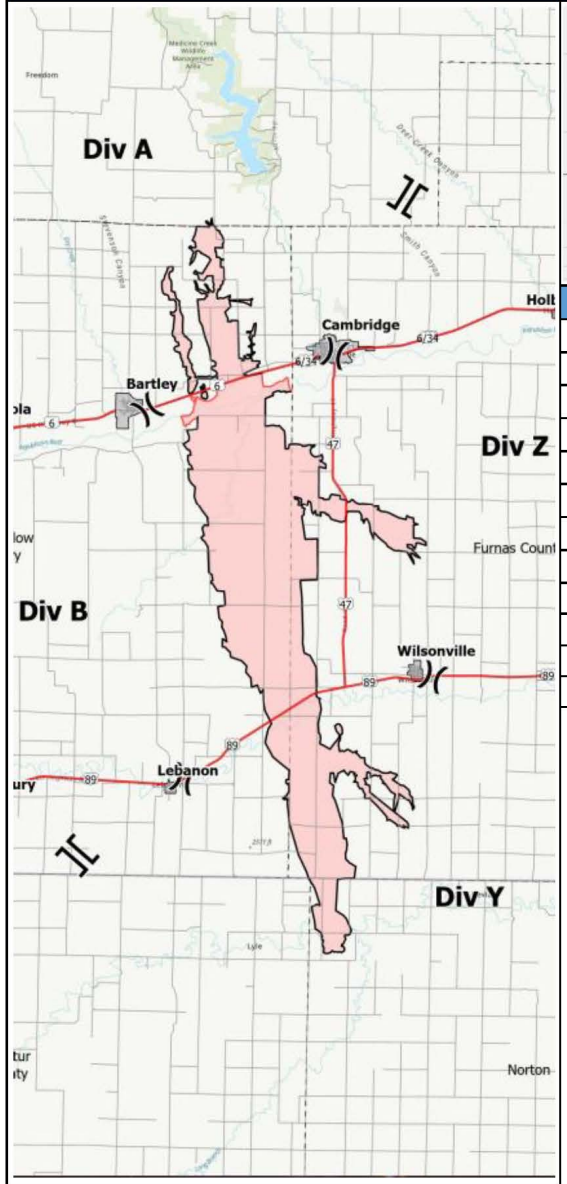
220 110 0 220 440 660 880
Kilometers

Document Name:
ANPP_forecast_summary_GP_2022_May03_below
Date: 5/3/2022
Map produced by M.D. Hartman

EXTENSION

State Watch Center Incident Situation Report: **ROAD 702 FIRE** April 28, 2022

Fire Perimeter



Additional map imagery:
https://ftp.wildfire.gov/public/incident_specific_data/rocky_mtn/2022/Nebraska%20Spring%2022%20-%20Road%20702/Maps/20220428/

Location

Fire Summary

Wildfire			**Type 1**
Location	**Furnas, Red Willow, Frontier counties**		
Incident Size			43,582 acres
Percent Contained			**88%**
Evacuated (total to date)			**1,850**
Fatalities	1	**Injuries**	5
Civilians Affected	3,002	**Shelter-In-Place**	0
Shelters 0	**Sheltered (total to date)**		0

Structures	Threatened	Damaged	Destroyed
Residences	660	0	6
Non-Residential	50	0	0
Minor Structures	0	0	0

- The fire began on April 22, 2022; rapidly spreading to the north.
- A Complex Incident Management Team (CIMT) arrived in North Platte on April 23 to manage the incident. The CIMT will transition command & management of this incident to the Nebraska Type 3 IMT on April 29.
- Fire spread potential is moderate to high.
- Fire growth on April 28 was due to backburning to enhance containment—not uncontrolled fire spread.
- Severe thunderstorms possible Thursday & Friday; lightning, hail, & gusty outflow winds possible in the incident area.
- All roads currently open; all evacuations have been lifted.
- Incident resources are adequate to accomplish current planned operational objectives.
- Objectives are to reinforce control lines, mop up light fuels, secure timbered areas, assess damages, & demobilize excess resources.
- Resources from the State Fire Marshal, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Forest Service, NEMA, & the Nebraska National Guard have been deployed to aid in response efforts.
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture reports coordination with several feedlots, the Brand Committee Inspector, & area veterinary service providers to address displaced cattle needs.

- All Community Lifelines are currently in green (stable) status.
- The Nebraska State EOC remains activated to provide support to the Road 702 Fire and monitor ongoing near-critical to critical fire weather conditions across the state.

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