



Resources for Drought Assistance

WV Department of Agriculture has gathered a list of assistance programs and resources provided by the government.

[Continue to our Drought Resource Page](#)

MARKET BULLETIN
WVDA's Official Newsletter

LICENSES

FARMER'S MARKET SEARCH

HEMP & KRATOM PRODUCTS

SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM

WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Do you want to ask the Commissioner a question? Know someone that you would like the Commissioner to recognize? Maybe you want to request the Commissioner attend an event?

If you have answered yes to any of the questions above or would like to see what other options we offer, please use the link below to reach out to Commissioner Leonhardt.

CONTACT THE COMMISSIONER ▶

LATEST NEWS AGRICULTURE UPDATES

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[AUG / 20 / 2024](#)

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West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner



🏠 > DIVISIONS > EXECUTIVE DIVISION > DROUGHT ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

As of mid-July 2024, West Virginia is experiencing significant drought conditions across various regions. Many areas in the state are classified as experiencing "moderate drought," while some parts are facing "severe drought" conditions. Notably, the eastern panhandle region is experiencing severe drought. Other areas are identified as "abnormally dry," indicating less severe but still concerning dryness levels. These conditions can lead to reduced water availability, impacting agriculture and water supplies across the state.

A list of assistance programs and resources is provided below. The drought is being closely monitored, and additional assistance programs may become available. Please check back regularly for the most current updates.

RESOURCE LINKS

West Virginia Current Drought Status:

[West Virginia | Drought.gov](#)

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance to Ag Producers

**WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION
AGENCY**

[Home \(wvca.us\)](#)

Cost-Share Funding to Supply Water to Livestock

[USDA Offers Disaster Assistance to Agricultural Producers in West Virginia Impacted by Drought](#) | [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

WVU Extension: Drought Management Article

[Drought Management Before During and After the Drought \(wvu.edu\)](#)

Drought Resource Guide

[Drought Resource Guide](#)

Upcoming Drought Meetings

[Upcoming Drought Meetings \(PDF\)](#)

Drought Resources

[Drought Resources](#)

Focus On Well-Being Resource Guide

[Focus On Well-Being Resource Guide](#)

Natural Disaster/Drought Assistance Programs:

1. USDA-FSA Disaster Assistance Programs

USDA offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, communities, and businesses that have been hard hit by natural disaster events.

[Disaster Assistance Programs \(usda.gov\)](#)

1. USDA Protection and Recovery Programs

[Protection and Recovery Programs and Resources | Farmers.gov](#)

HAY RESOURCES

During a drought, securing reliable hay sources is crucial for livestock health. Farmers can explore several options for purchasing hay, such as online marketplaces and the Department of Agriculture's

All exigency practices intended to combat drought are now available to conservation districts. District supervisors must vote to approve the practices for cost-share in their specific district. The cost-share practices available to be used are water for livestock (see below), irrigation of crops, cover crops, connecting/tapping into a city water line and more.

Components eligible for cost-share for irrigating crops include: Portable water tanks, water pumps, portable pipeline, associated valves and pipe fittings, drip irrigation lines, irrigation timers, and mulch.

West Virginians with livestock experiencing hardship due to drought conditions are eligible to receive cost-share funding to help supply water to livestock through their local conservation districts.

The components eligible for cost-share are: Portable water tanks, associated valves and fittings, water pumps, portable pipeline and portable water troughs.

To meet eligibility criteria, a portion of one county within a district must have been designated a "D1" or higher classification, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. If any county has a D1 classification or higher, then any county within that conservation district is eligible for cost-share funding through the Agricultural Enhancement Exigency Program. (A list of conservation districts and contact information is below.)

Each county affected is within a specific conservation district. Residents should contact the specific conservation district where they are experiencing drought. Ask to speak with the conservation district's administrative specialist.

- Barbour, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker and Upshur counties are in the Tygarts Valley Conservation

monthly Market Bulletin. Additionally, those with hay to sell should contact their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to be added to the "Hay For Sale" list. With the drought continuing, it's important to act quickly to secure hay now.

Sources to Purchase Hay:

- The WVDA's Market Bulletin
[Market Bulletin: West Virginia Department of Agriculture \(wv.gov\)](#)
- Craigslist
[craigslist | west virginia](#)
- Facebook Marketplace
[Facebook Marketplace | Facebook](#)
- Classifieds and Auctions | [lancasterfarming.com](#)
[Classifieds and Auctions | lancasterfarming.com](#)
- Farm and Dairy: Agriculture News, Auctions, Classifieds
[Farm and Dairy: Agriculture News, Auctions, Classifieds](#)
- FSA List

District, which can be reached at: (304) 457-3026.

- Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties are within the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, which can be reached at: (304) 263-4376.
- Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo and Wayne counties are within the Guyan Conservation District, which can be reached at: (304) 528-5718.
- Braxton, Clay, Nicholas and Webster counties are within the Elk Conservation District, which can be reached at: (304) 765-2535.
- Brooke, Hancock, Marshall and Ohio counties are within the Northern Panhandle Conservation District, which can be reached at: (304) 238-1231.
- Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood counties are within the Little Kanawha Conservation District, which can be reached at: (304) 422-9088.
- Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison and Lewis counties are within the West Fork Conservation District, which can be reached at: (304) 627-2160.
- Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming counties are in the Southern Conservation District, which can be reached at:

(304) 253-0261

