Ohio Drought

Rob Hamilton DSWC Program Manager September 12, 2024



Department of Agriculture

U.S. Drought Monitor Ohio

September 10, 2024

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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

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Drought – Agriculture Impacts

- Pasture and Livestock:
 - Pasture conditions in the poor and very poor range dropped to 53% last week
 - In some areas 90-100% of producers feeding hay or other alternatives.
 - No growth little to no second cutting hay and some farmers feeding winter hay supplies since June.
 - Early weaning; selling cows
 - Water sources have dried up and water being hauled to livestock.





Drought – Agriculture Impacts



• Row Crops:

- Poor to very poor conditions for corn and soybeans have also worsened to 27% and 25%, respectively.
- Soybeans and corn drying down quickly without filling pods or reaching maturity in the driest areas across the southeast.
- Increased fall harvest fire risk (combine and field fires).
- Specialty Crops:
 - Fruit and nut abandonment on trees.
 - Smaller fruit size and maturing earlier.
 - Extensive insect pressure on vegetable crops made worse by warm winter.
 - Insect feeding on already stressed plants compounds these issues such as increased sunscald of fruit.



Drought – ODA's Response

- Several site visits and meetings with farmers, legislators, and local officials in area of extreme and exceptional drought.
- Working with USDA getting the word out about emergency programs available.
- Briefings and information sharing with SWCDs & agency partners.
- Coordination & information sharing with Ag industry & other state agencies.

Are you an Ohio Farmer Impacted by Drought?

While ODA is closely monitoring the impacted counties, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) plays a critical role in assessing drought and aiding farmers.

Drought Conditions

The U.S. Drought Monitor is an online, weekly map showing the location, extent, and severity of drought conditions across the U.S. For more information on current conditions, scan the qr code.

Quick Tips

- Contact your county Farm Service Agency to be sure your challenges are on record and to learn about assistance programs.
- Maintain records of all expenses hay purchases/hauling, water purchases/hauling, equipment, etc.
- Contact your local soil and water conservation district with any additional questions.





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Drought – Communications & Outreach

<u>ODA Drought</u> <u>Resources</u>

Drought web page:

- Drought Resources Info Card
- Ohio Hay Directory
- Social media posts

https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/administration/ resources/2024-ohio-drought



Drought – ODA & EMA Work Group

- ODA and Ohio EMA formed a drought working group to formalize coordination to help minimize impacts of drought.
- Add specific details & actions from the meeting.

Working Group Participants:

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Soil and Water Resources
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
- Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)
- Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal
- Ohio State University Extension
- State Climate Office of Ohio (SCOO)
- National Weather Services (NWS) (Wilmington)
- United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)
- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH)



USDA Emergency Drought Programs

Emergency Loan Program-Provides low interest loans to help producers recover from production or physical losses.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance-

_Financial assistance available to producers of non-insurable crops.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program-

Compensates eligible producers who have suffered grazing losses.

Livestock Assistance Program-Covers losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting and providing feed and water.

Tree Assistance Program-

Provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines.

Honeybee & Farm Raised Fish Assistance Programs-

Helps cover losses of honeybees, farm-raised fish, and other types of livestock not covered by other programs.

Emergency Conservation Program-

Provides funding and technical assistance to provide emergency water during periods of severe drought.

CRP Haying and Grazing-

Haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres is allowed under certain conditions. Certain CRP acres may Not be eligible for haying or grazing.



USDA Emergency Drought Programs

Eligible Counties:

- Adams
- Athens
- Belmont
- Brown
- Carroll
- Champaign
- Clark
- Clinton
- Columbiana
- Coshocton

- Fairfield
- Fayette

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Franklin

Gallia

Greene

Hocking

Jackson

Madison

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Meigs

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Jefferson

Lawrence

Licking

Morgan

Monroe

Perry

Muskingum

- Guernsey
- Harrison •
- Highland
 - MuskiNoble

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- Pickaway
- Pike
- Ross
- Scioto
- Tuscarawas
- Union
- Vinton
- Washington





Questions?

