DROUGHT RESOURCES for Farmers & Ranchers in Marin and Sonoma

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» University Cooperative Extension Sonoma County

MARIN + SONOMA

» USDA Farm Service Agency
» USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
» General Drought Resources
RESOURCES in Marin County

CONTACT: Stefan Parnay, acting agricultural commissioner; sparnay@marincounty.org; (415) 473-3217

WEBSITE: marincounty.org/depts/ag/drought-conditions-and-resources

RESOURCES: Coordinates with water agencies to provide access to non-potable raw water from metered hydrants below Nicasio Reservoir and Stafford Lake and access to other strategically located hydrants.

Communicates with the Board of Supervisors and legislators to explain the severity of the drought, change drought status and provide aid.

Offers a $50,000 cost-share drought-relief program. Working on an additional $150,000 that could be available beginning July 1, 2021.

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CONTACT: Eric Rubenstahl, stewardship program manager; erubenstahl@malt.org; (415) 473-3217 ext. 319

WEBSITE: malt.org/stewardship-assistance-draws-initiative

RESOURCES: Helps Marin ranchers and farmers invest in drought-resilient practices and projects through its Drought Resilience & Water Security initiative.

Supports MALT easement properties in the implementation of projects that enhance soil and water quality through its Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP), a small grants program run through the Marin Resource Conservation District.

Provides technical assistance to CDFA Healthy Soils Program applicants.

Communicates available resources via the MALT blog on malt.org, e-newsletters, social media, website and directly to Marin agriculturalists.
MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONTACT: Nancy Scolari, executive director; nancy@marinrcd.org; (415) 663-1170 ext. 301
WEBSITE: marinrcd.org/drought-assistance
RESOURCES: Will take names and needs for future grant funding opportunities. Assists with CDFA Healthy Soils Program applications, which supports practices that increase soil-water holding capacity and climate resilience.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources  UC Cooperative Extension

CONTACT: Vince Trotter, sustainable agriculture coordinator & agricultural ombudsman; tvtrotter@ucanr.edu; (415) 473-4204
WEBSITE: growninmarin.org
RESOURCES: Offers growninmarin.org, a comprehensive resource for farmers and ranchers including best practices during a drought. Educates and provides one-on-one technical assistance with advisors and specialists to producers weathering the drought. In partnership with UCCE, Sonoma County, conducts drought-related workshops including information on financial relief and adaptation measures for agricultural operations.
RESOURCES in Sonoma County

GOLD RIDGE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONTACT: Brittany Jensen, executive director; brttany@goldridgercd.org; (707) 823-5244 ext. 11
WEBSITE: goldridgercd.org
RESOURCES: Assists with conservation plans, helping producers apply to NRCS programs.
Assists with applications to the CDFA Healthy Soils Program and Zero Food Print, which supports practices that increase soil-water holding capacity and resilience to climate fluctuations.
Supports farmers and ranchers with water development engineering.

CONTACT: Andrew Smith, agriculture commissioner; andrew.smith@sonoma-county.org; (707) 565-2371
WEBSITE: sonomacounty.ca.gov
RESOURCES: Conducts an agricultural loss survey to determine the extent and nature of crop loss due to the drought conditions in Sonoma County during the 2020-21 rainy season. The results of this survey may lead to additional assistance being made available to Sonoma County producers.
Communicates to listserv about current resources available.

CONTACT: Sheri Emerson, stewardship manager; sheri.emerson@sonoma-county.org; (707) 565-7358
WEBSITE: sonomaopenspace.org
RESOURCES: Communicates available resources via e-newsletters, social media, website and directly to agriculture easement landowners.
SONOMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONTACT: Valerie Quinto, executive director; vminton@sonomarcd.org; (707) 569-1448 ext. 102
WEBSITE: sonomarcd.org
RESOURCES: Assists with conservation plans, which helps producers apply to USDA NRCS programs.
Assists with water development engineering.
Gives advice about irrigation systems and scheduling methods.
Assists with applications to the CDFA Healthy Soils Program, which supports practices that increase soil-water holding capacity and resilience to climate fluctuations.
Connects producers with resources via e-newsletter, website and one-on-one referrals.

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CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, county director, livestock range management advisor; slarson@ucanr.edu; (707) 565-2621
WEBSITE: ucanr.edu/droughtsonoma
RESOURCES: Matchgraze.com increases potential grazing acreage for producers and decreases fire danger.
Provides technical assistance to producers to declare losses.
Provides technical assistance to help producers with the CDFA Healthy Soils Program.
Measures forage production to provide data to drought programs.
RESOURCES in Marin & Sonoma

CONTACT: Lisa Velasquez, county executive director, Ana Cecilia Medina, farm program technician; lisa.velasquez@usda.gov; ana.medina@usda.gov; (707) 794-1242

WEBSITE: fsa.usda.gov

RESOURCES:
Provides loans once drought is classified as D3, which will include payments for water hauling and forage losses.

Provides crop insurance for farmers and ranchers who needed to sign up previously to qualify.

CONTACT: Andrew Loganbill, district conservationist, Kristan Norman, area rangeland specialist; andrew.loganbill@usda.gov; kristan.norman@usda.gov; (707) 794-1242

WEBSITE: offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app

RESOURCES:
Provides technical assistance to farmers and ranchers.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides funding for livestock water and water system expansion, getting water to underutilized forage areas. Applications are competitive and accepted in batching periods; the next one is in June 2021.

Also offers a waiver process under EQIP where staff provides technical assistance, designs and specs but the producer is responsible for project implementation without being guaranteed EQIP funding. Environmental and cultural review is required.

nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/eqip
Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT): calmit.unl.edu/drought

Current United States Drought Monitor Conditions — California: drought.gov/states/california

United States Drought Monitor Classifications: droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About/AbouttheData/DroughtClassification.aspx