

# NRCS Farm Bill Programs During Drought

Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/mn](http://nrcs.usda.gov/mn)



## NRCS Conservation Contracts

Drought conditions may result in difficult site conditions for implementing planned conservation practices or activities and may cause previously established conservation practices or activities to fail. NRCS will use available program flexibilities when circumstances beyond a participant's control (such as severe drought) impact the participants ability to complete the scheduled practices or activities.

### Rescheduling

Practices or activities scheduled for implementation in an active contract that cannot be installed due to drought conditions may be delayed for up to a year, in most circumstances. Participants need to contact their local NRCS office to provide details of the impacts and discuss opportunities to reschedule.

### Cancellation

NRCS would like to use all available program flexibilities before canceling contracts due to drought related impacts. However, participants impacted by drought may be forced to make substantial changes to their operation that could include requesting to cancel their program contract. Participants considering canceling their program contract should contact their local NRCS office to discuss their options before submitting a request to cancel.

### Modification to Reestablish

Drought conditions can impact conservation program practices or activities that were previously completed. Program participants with failed conservation practices or activities due to the drought may have the ability to reapply the activity with financial assistance.

For contracts with drought related failure to be eligible to reinstall the failed activities via the original contract the following conditions must be met:

- The program contract has not expired
- Participant meets all program/ participant eligibility
- NRCS has program funds available

### New Farm Bill Contract

When a drought-caused failed activity is associated with an expired contract, a new application can be submitted to compete for funds in the next sign-up. Participants will need to contact their local NRCS field office to assist with this process and discuss opportunities to reapply.

## Easement Grazing or Haying

Grazing /Haying of NRCS held easements is an option regardless of drought conditions and is available for landowners to explore. Landowners may request to hay, graze, or complete management activities on the easement by a Compatible Use Authorization (CUA). The approved CUA and plan reflect the benefits of the activity to the habitat conditions and are detailed as to how and when the activities are to occur on the easement. If a CUA is authorized, the landowner is not under any obligation to implement the management activities; however, if the landowner chooses to implement the management activities, they must be done in accordance with the terms of the CUA. Landowners wanting to explore these options on their easements should contact their local NRCS staff.



## Contact Minnesota NRCS

For assistance with any NRCS conservation practice, contact your [local field office](#).

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