



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **Farmers and Ranchers in all 15 counties Now Eligible for Special Loans to Cope with Drought**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today granted a Secretarial Disaster Designation to five primary counties and ten contiguous counties in response to severe ongoing drought throughout Arizona. With this announcement, farmers and ranchers in all 15 counties are now eligible to apply for federal financial assistance.

“We’ve seen the impacts of extreme drought in Arizona for nearly 10 years,” said Governor Jan Brewer. “Our agricultural industry has suffered greatly in terms of agricultural loss and land damage. This type of relief is critical to the future livelihood of Arizona farm operators.”

The declaration allows farmers and ranchers to apply for Farm Service Agency emergency loans. These loans can be used to help pay for production costs during the drought, pay essential living expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance debt.

Eligible individuals have up to eight months from this designation to apply. Each loan is considered separately and is based on its own merits.

“It’s good to see the federal government recognize the financial strain that farmers and ranchers face,” said Don Butler, Arizona Department of Agriculture Director. “These loans can be a lifesaver to our friends who are making very difficult decisions because of Mother Nature.”

For more information on the program, visit:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&ype=detail&item=pf\\_20120716\\_farln\\_en\\_2012emln.html](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&ype=detail&item=pf_20120716_farln_en_2012emln.html)