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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drought Help for Arizona Farmers and Ranchers

Scattered showers and heavy rains are a welcome sight across Arizona. Parts of the state are even above average in the [rainfall received](#) this year, but it's not enough to cure a 20 year drought.

Farmers and ranchers can now apply for special loans to help cope with the financial impact of the drought. The USDA declared a natural disaster for all 15 counties this month.

“Water is the greatest natural resource for life,” said Mark Killian, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. “Not only for each of us in our daily lives, but also as the key to putting food on our tables.”

The continuing drought has challenged farmers and ranchers across the Southwest for more than two decades. The Arizona agricultural community has responded using innovative

means to squeeze the most out of every ounce of water.

For example in the past it was very common for crop farmers to use flood irrigation or sprinklers to water the fields. Now the standard is more of a drip irrigation system that channels the water close to the roots of the plants.

The disaster declaration from the USDA announced this spring acknowledges the extra cost and loss of income of the drought. It provides the state's farmers and ranchers the opportunity to take out low interest loans based on their need and ability to repay the loans. The loans must be applied for within eight months of the designation.

For more information on the benefits available, contact the Farm Services Administration in Arizona at 602-285-6300 or visit its website.

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