



Texas State Technical Committee Meeting

Farm Service Agency Program Updates

Texas Conservation Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - 3.2 million acres actively enrolled in 139 counties
- Continuous Signup for CRP (CCRP)
 - 3 Current SAFE projects
 - Mixed Grass – Lesser Prairie Chicken (CP38)
 - Lower Rio Grande Valley – Ocelot (CP38)
 - Gulf Coast Region – Mottled Duck (CP38)
 - 7 State Initiatives with Practice Acreage Allocation
 - Wetland Restoration (CP23)
 - Wetland Restoration - Non-Floodplain (CP23A)
 - Habitat Buffers for Upland Game Birds (CP33)
 - Highly Erodible Land Initiative (CRP-HELI)
 - Longleaf Pine Establishment (CP36)
 - Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands (CP31)
 - Farmable Wetlands Program (CRP-FWP)

Texas Conservation Programs

- The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill)
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continued through 2018
 - Annually reduces enrolled acreage cap to reach 24 million by FY 2017 (FY 2014 = 25.6 million)
 - Annual payment reduction for Emergency HY or GZ is eliminated
 - Minimum 25% annual payment reduction for Managed (Routine) HY and GZ is required.
 - During FY 2015 an opportunity for “early out” will be implemented.
 - Transition Incentive Payment (CRP-TIP) expands eligibility to include military veterans with beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged producers.

Texas Conservation Programs

- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) rental contracts have been realigned under CRP administration
 - GRP Easement activity has been included in restructured NRCS led - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Conservation Compliance (HEL/WC) provisions remain in effect and are extended to include RMA premium assistance.
 - New compliance standards are in place that are unique to RMA eligibility
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is continued through FY 2018

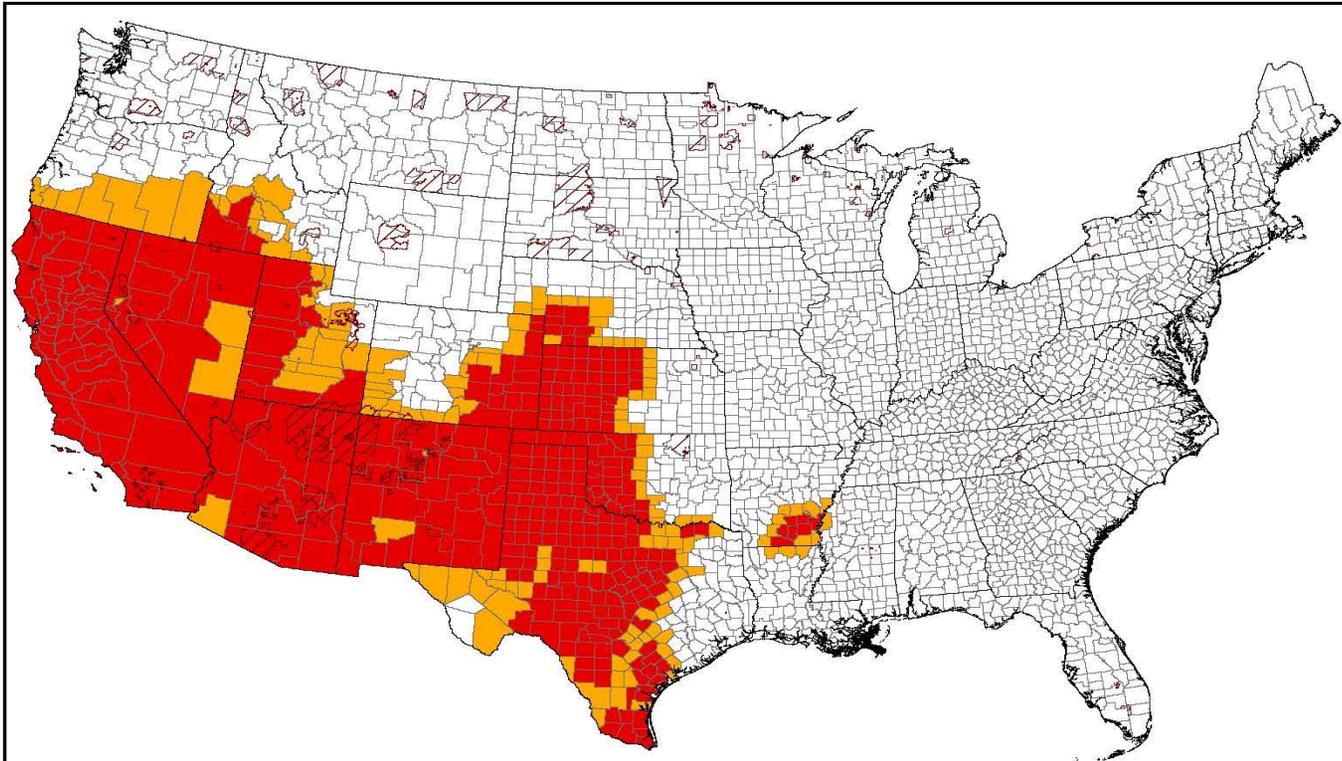
Texas Conservation Programs

- As the completion of the related regulations are completed FSA is anticipating continuing to ask the STAC membership for input as the need arises.
 - Education is very important as each related issue has impact with our stakeholders.
 - With the many interests involved in our conservation programs in the State a consistent message is very important.

Texas Conservation Programs

- Current 2014 Disaster Declarations
 - Secretarial declarations have already been received in 196 counties due to 2014 drought qualifying losses
 - USDM reviewed weekly

2014 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Secretarial Drought Designations for 2014

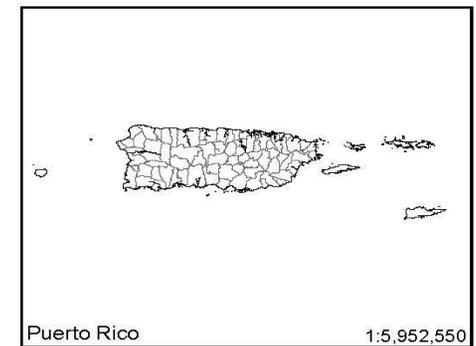
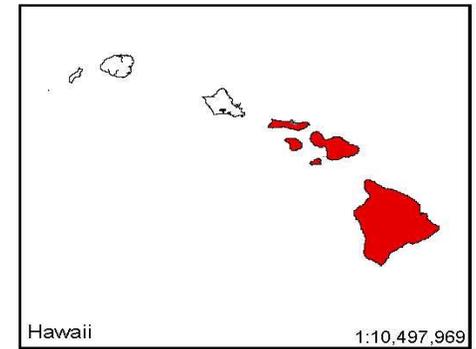
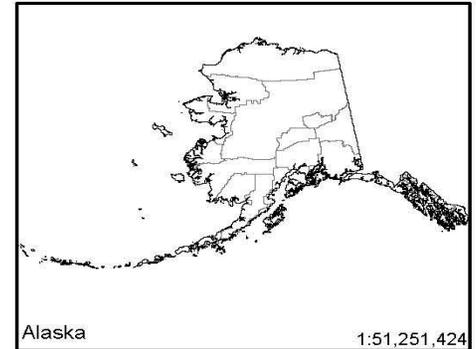
Disaster Incidents as of April 16, 2014

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Tribal Lands
-  Primary Counties: 381
-  Contiguous Counties: 155



USDA Farm Service Agency
 Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division
 Washington, D.C.
 April 16, 2014

1:23,721,366



Emergency Conservation Programs

- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
 - 5 counties are currently processing agriculture restoration activities
 - 2013 - Maverick, Johnson and Navarro
 - 2014 – Hemphill and Lipscomb

- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)
 - Work with the Texas Forest Service to obligate funding for replanting activities in locations where inadequate tree reestablishment has resulted in a practice failure
 - All 15 authorized counties remain active

Texas Conservation Programs

- On March 27, 2014 the Lesser Prairie Chicken was afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. Also announced were provisions under the section 4 D authority for acceptable activities.
 - Primarily granted exemption as incidental take for lands cultivated in the past 5 years including hay and forage production
 - Coordination with USFWS for all interested groups including FSA and NRCS is needed.
 - Individually all landowners must be aware of the meaning of this species listing and the resulting liability for activities.

Texas Conservation Programs

- We appreciate your willingness to provide comments for the facilitation of many program in Texas.
 - If there concerns from the any on the Technical Committee that need to be provided to the FSA State Committee?
 - Please email any comments to micky.woodard@tx.usda.gov

Texas FSA Programs

Comments or Questions ??