



Policy Update

July 11, 2025

USDA to start distributing Supplement Disaster Relief

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced this week that agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop losses due to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 can now apply for \$16 billion in assistance through the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP). These disasters include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze, smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions. To qualify for drought related losses, the loss must have occurred in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 for eight consecutive weeks, or D3 or greater intensity level during the applicable calendar year.

To expedite the implementation of SDRP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering assistance in two stages. This first stage is open to producers with eligible crop losses that received assistance under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during 2023 and 2024. Stage One sign up started in person at FSA county offices on July 10 and prefilled applications are being mailed to producers on July 9. SDRP Stage Two signups for eligible shallow or uncovered losses will begin in early fall.

Gov. Rhoden and Colleagues Support Trump Administration's National Farm Security Action Plan

Governor Larry Rhoden and fellow America First Governors voiced their support of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins and the Trump Administration's National Farm Security Action Plan.

The National Farm Security Action Plan is a joint effort between USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, and Attorney General Pam Bondi. This effort protects U.S. agriculture in the following ways:

- Strengthens enforcement of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA);
- Ensures that inputs to U.S. agriculture currently sourced from other countries are adequately protected and listed as critical;
- Provides enhanced protections for our critical agricultural infrastructure against foreign animal diseases, pathogens, and invasive species;
- Requires the reevaluation of every USDA program through an American First lens; and
- Strengthens coordination between the USDA, intelligence community, and state leaders.

Click [here](#) to read the letter.

Gov. Rhoden Announces District 22 Senate Appointment

Governor Larry Rhoden recently announced the appointment of Brandon R. Wipf to represent District 22 in the South Dakota Senate, effective immediately.

Brandon Wipf is a fourth-generation farmer in southern Spink County. Wipf currently serves on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Ag Advisory Council and is a Director for the American Soybean Association. He graduated Valedictorian from James Valley Christian School in 2004 and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Dordt College.

Wipf will replace former State Senator David Wheeler who was recently appointed circuit judge for the Third Circuit.

Sign Up for Prairie Dog Control Programs Enrollment Ends August 15

The South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) have assistance available for prairie dog encroachment. The deadline for enrollment is **August 15**.

GFP will control prairie dogs that have encroached onto private land from adjacent public land, with a few exclusions. Landowners who have encroachment problems on their property from adjacent public land must be within one mile of the public land and have at least ten acres of actual prairie dog colonies to be eligible for assistance. Eligibility will be verified for every control request through GPS mapping, whether it is a new or recurring request.

Landowners must register at prairiedogcontrol.sd.gov before August 15 to request assistance with unwanted prairie dogs.

Contact for Questions

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