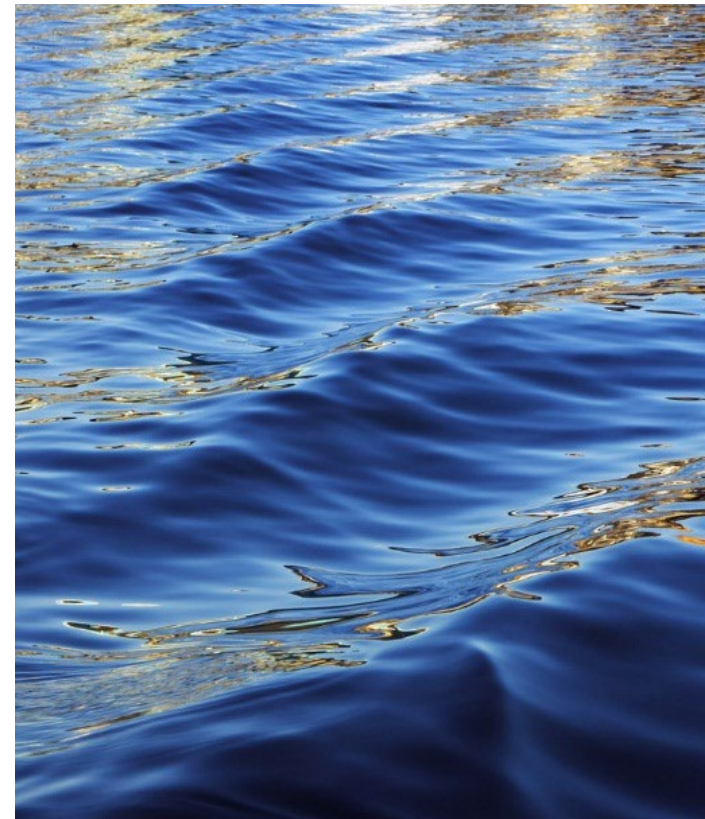


Emergency Drought Program Update

Governor's Water Conference
November 28 – 29, 2023

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Trey Lam, Executive Director

OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION



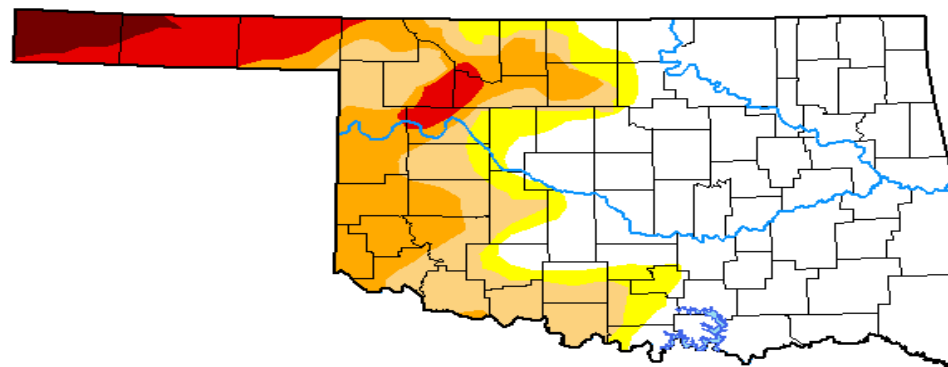
May 2022
Legislature
appropriates \$3
million to the
Emergency
Drought Fund



Flash Drought June 2022

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

June 7, 2022
(Released Thursday, Jun. 9, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	56.89	43.11	35.30	21.31	8.84	2.47
Last Week <i>05-31-2022</i>	51.02	48.98	42.58	34.82	17.16	2.93
3 Months Ago <i>03-08-2022</i>	8.16	91.84	86.62	74.46	56.52	12.03
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2022</i>	5.02	94.98	88.14	72.26	40.44	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-28-2021</i>	6.45	93.55	73.23	23.72	2.65	0.00
One Year Ago <i>06-08-2021</i>	84.66	15.34	5.84	1.04	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA

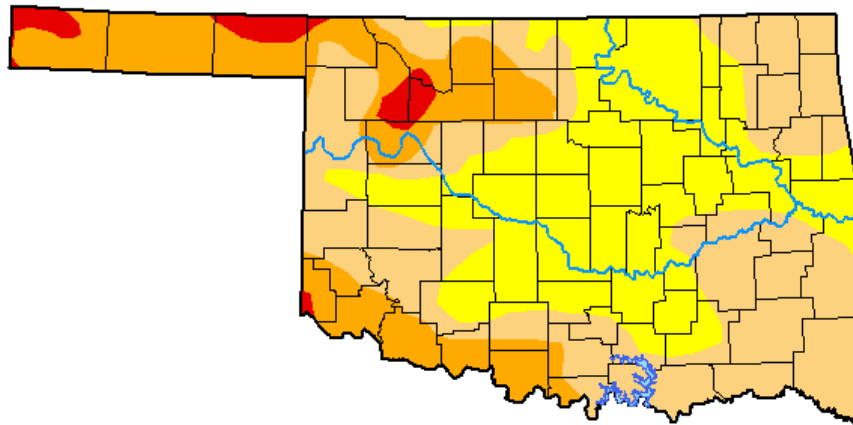


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

July 2022 Drought Intensifies

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

July 12, 2022
(Released Thursday, Jul. 14, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	62.75	22.39	2.87	0.00
Last Week <i>07-05-2022</i>	35.66	64.34	31.14	14.79	5.07	0.69
3 Months Ago <i>04-12-2022</i>	15.37	84.63	74.19	59.93	32.15	8.93
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2022</i>	5.02	94.98	88.14	72.26	40.44	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-28-2021</i>	6.45	93.55	73.23	23.72	2.65	0.00
One Year Ago <i>07-13-2021</i>	90.35	9.65	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

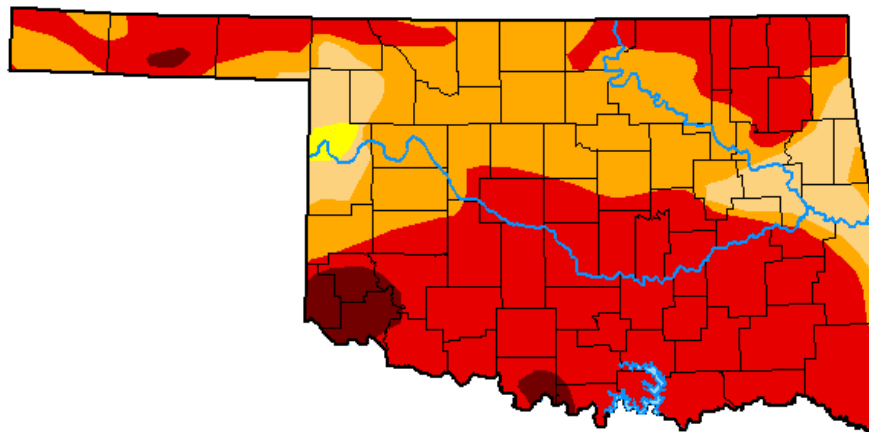


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

August 2022 Statewide Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

August 16, 2022
(Released Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.33	90.63	59.15	3.50
Last Week <small>08-09-2022</small>	0.00	100.00	99.33	92.45	48.83	0.67
3 Months Ago <small>05-17-2022</small>	39.49	60.51	53.54	44.86	34.12	10.17
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-04-2022</small>	5.02	94.98	88.14	72.26	40.44	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-28-2021</small>	6.45	93.55	73.23	23.72	2.65	0.00
One Year Ago <small>08-17-2021</small>	84.55	15.45	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



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Emergency Drought Commission Actions

September 30, 2022

Emergency Drought Commissioners Blayne Arthur, Julie Cunningham and Trey Lam unanimously approved a cost share assistance program using **\$3 million** appropriated by the State Legislature and approved by Governor Stitt in House Bill 2959

Approved practices include:

water well drilling

heavy use protection

pumping facilities

watering facilities

Pipeline

cover crop planting (for erosion control

pasture tap

pond clean out

forage and biomass planting (excluding Bermuda grass)

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

October 4, 2022

Governor Kevin Stitt approved **\$20 million** in additional funds be appropriated to the Emergency Drought Commission as presented by the legislature in the special legislative session.

October 17, 2022

Significant changes were made to the program by the Emergency Drought Commission in their third meeting, and an additional **\$5 million** was added to the cost-share program.

The changes include:

- Making the Emergency Drought Cost-Share program available retroactively for pond clean out and new rural water tap projects started on or after June 11, 2022.

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

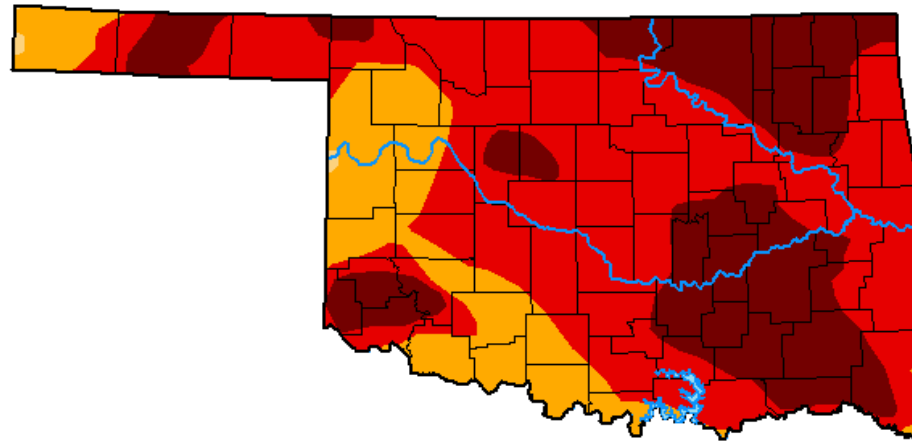
Program changes continued:

- Allowing producers of all livestock used to financially support a family to apply.
- Increasing maximum payments for pond clean outs to \$2,500 for small sized ponds, \$5,000 for medium sized ponds and \$7,500 for large sized ponds.
- Removing the requirement for drought condition certification for individual properties

October 2022 Statewide Drought Intensifies

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

October 18, 2022
(Released Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.82	82.26	29.71
Last Week <i>10-11-2022</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.66	85.65	29.10
3 Months Ago <i>07-19-2022</i>	0.00	100.00	99.69	57.51	6.80	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2022</i>	5.02	94.98	88.14	72.26	40.44	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2022</i>	0.00	100.00	99.88	94.44	64.44	17.25
One Year Ago <i>10-19-2021</i>	6.04	93.96	38.42	10.90	0.77	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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Author:

Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

November 9, 2022

Changes were made to the program by the Emergency Drought Commission and an additional \$12 million was directed to Emergency Drought Cost-Share Funding.

- Directing conservation districts to accept applications for all approved practices.
- Clarifying cover crops planted for the purpose of erosion control are eligible for the program.
- Announcing all practices included in the Emergency Drought Cost-Share Program may be funded retroactively to June 11, 2022, pending appropriate documentation provided by the applicant.

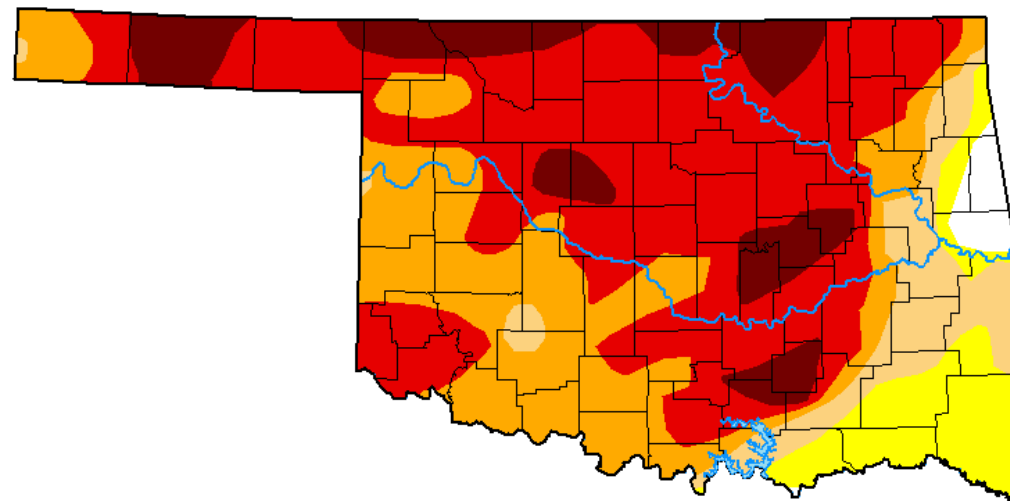
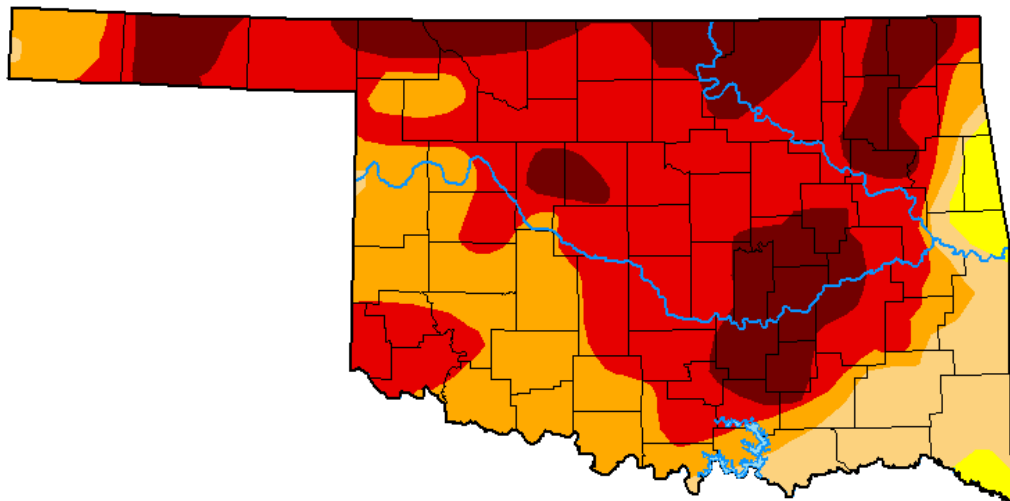
Emergency Drought Commission Actions

November 9, 2022 - Cont.

- Opening a statewide application period that is set to close on November 28, 2022.
- Allowing applications submitted prior to November 9, 2022, that have not received funding to be eligible for the updated program.
- The remaining \$4.5 million in funds appropriated to the Emergency Drought Commission will be allocated strategically as the commission continues to meet.

November 15, 2022

December 27, 2022



Emergency Drought Commission Actions

January 5, 2023

The Emergency Drought Commission directed all remaining funds allocated to the Commission. \$24.5 Million total allocated.

- The Commission determined any funds unused and returned by the local conservation districts should be redirected with the remaining funds.
- The funding directed by the Commission totals approximately \$5 million. Those funds will be distributed through the existing Cost-Share Program.
- The Oklahoma Conservation Commission will disperse the remaining funds to conservation districts based on the number of unfunded applications in each local district.
- No new applications are being accepted at this time.

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

May 8, 2023

The Emergency Drought Commission provided further guidance to producers who have been approved for pond cleanout through the Emergency Cost-Share Program.

- Approved producers who have not completed their pond cleanout by June 1, 2023, will be contacted by their local conservation district to alert them that they have 45 days to complete the project.
- Pond cleanout projects that require water to be pumped out of the pond are allowed.

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

August 23, 2023

The Emergency Drought Commission voted to reinstate Pond Clean Out Cost-Share participants whose applications were canceled due to not completing their projects by July 15. The Commission also tasked the Oklahoma Conservation Commission with gathering the applicants that will be reinstated. The Commission has asked the OCC to gather questions and concerns from local conservation districts to help with streamlining the process for applicants. Additionally, two new members joined the Emergency Drought Commission: Pete Nichols from Washita County and Josh Emerson from McIntosh County.

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

September 19, 2023

The Emergency Drought Commission heard an update on program delivery and challenges encountered by Conservation districts.

- Program Year End Date extended to June 30, 2024.
- Updated the Emergency Drought Self-Certification form to include the following language:
 - Requiring a legal description of the installed practice(s)
 - Requiring photo documentation of the installed practice(s)
 - Strengthening program compliance to include
 - Investigation of any allegations or suspicions of abuse or fraud
 - Taking any actions necessary as a result of an investigation
 - Developed an Abuses and Fraud Guidance Document
 - Developed an Investigation Report template

Emergency Drought Commission Actions

September 19, 2023 – Cont.

- Final \$17 million in Drought appropriations released.
- \$41.5 million total allocated to the Emergency Drought Program

By the numbers:

Total number of producers receiving drought assistance funds 3,797.

Practice	No of Practices Installed	Drought Assistance Funds Paid	Total Cost to Install Practice	Amount Paid by Producer
cover crop	90	\$ 508,375	\$ 823,984	\$ 315,609
heavy use area protection	138	\$ 194,117	\$ 273,630	\$ 79,513
pasture planting	73	\$ 356,573	\$ 519,491	\$ 162,918
pasture tap	178	\$ 441,007	\$ 621,652	\$ 180,645
pipeline	353	\$ 1,187,875	\$ 1,755,481	\$ 567,606
pond cleanout	2,262	\$ 12,462,767	\$ 18,653,063	\$ 6,190,296
pumping plant	860	\$ 2,691,592	\$ 3,807,692	\$ 1,116,100
watering facility	418	\$ 743,880	\$ 1,091,491	\$ 347,611
well	879	\$ 3,828,303	\$ 5,205,748	\$ 1,377,445
TOTAL	5,251	\$ 22,414,489	\$ 32,752,232	\$ 10,337,743