

Perry Declares Statewide Drought Disaster

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[Gov. Rick Perry](#) Thursday declared a statewide drought disaster and asked for disaster relief for Texas farms and ranches.

Federal approval of Perry's request would make qualified farms and ranches in all 254 Texas counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans.

The governor announced his declaration in a statement Wednesday. Since early summer, he's asked for assistance for 113 drought-stricken counties. The [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency](#) has approved 54 of those requests.

Perry says that he's now asking for approval of federal assistance for statewide agriculture because of severe drought conditions.

Qualified producers can borrow up to 100 percent of their actual production for physical losses, up to \$500,000. The USDA agency also offers other help to eligible farmers, including technical assistance.