

# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **AZDA Encourages Arizona Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by Natural Disaster to Apply for Emergency Assistance**

PHOENIX, AZ — The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) is encouraging Arizona farmers and ranchers impacted by heavy rains and flooding last fall (between September 25 and October 13, 2025) to apply for emergency assistance available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Following a request submitted by Governor Hobbs to USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins outlining significant damage and production losses suffered by the agricultural community as a result of these events, the USDA issued a Secretarial natural disaster designation. This designation allows farm operators in Gila County, the primary natural disaster area, and all contiguous counties (Coconino, Graham, Maricopa, Navajo, Pinal, and Yavapai) to be considered for emergency loan assistance.

“We know the toll these disasters have taken on our rural communities. We fought alongside our producers to ensure they weren't forgotten, and now we want to make sure these individuals have access to the resources available. This is about more than just funding; it's about rebuilding what was lost,” said AZDA Director Paul Brierley.

### Key Details:

- **Application Window:** Farmers and ranchers have until Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 to apply for emergency loans.
- **Assessment Criteria:** FSA evaluates each application based on the extent of production losses, available security, and the repayment ability of the operator.
- **How to Apply:** Affected farmers should contact their [local FSA office](#) to receive further information and begin the application process.

For more information on eligibility requirements or to find your local office, please visit the [USDA Farm Service Agency](#) website or contact the Arizona State FSA Office directly.