

2025 Agriculture Drought Impact Survey

Please mail your completed survey (postmarked by Monday, December 15, 2025) to:

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

ATTN: Sarah McIlvennie

116 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05620

Purpose

To, as thoroughly as possible, capture the type and scale of the impacts agricultural producers suffered throughout the state as a result of the **2025 drought conditions**. Survey data may be used to inform response efforts, allocate resources, and advocate for future relief and recovery programs. The goal is to understand everyone's need, so relief and recovery efforts are better informed at the community and industry scale. We acknowledge that these metrics do not capture all the forms of loss and damage you are experiencing.

Most questions in this survey are optional. Some identifying questions are required. At the end of the survey, you will be asked to indicate which federal, state, and technical assistance providers you give permission for your individual responses to be shared with. All data shared publicly will be done so in an aggregated and anonymous structure.

Who Should Fill Out This Survey?

This survey is appropriate for all businesses, organizations, or individuals who raise animals, meat, or poultry and/or grow feed and other crops (including produce, maple products, Christmas trees, horticultural plants) in Vermont for anyone beyond their immediate family. Shared production spaces such as community gardens or farm plots must coordinate within their organization to submit one response.

Food businesses and nonprofits who do not participate in production activities, including food hubs, aggregators, gleaners, etc., and individuals who only produce agricultural products for their immediate family should not fill out this survey. Instead, we invite you to submit your drought-related impacts, photos and observations to the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports tool (<https://bit.ly/DroughtMonitorCMOR>).

This survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete. **The survey will close on December 15th, 2025.**

Additional Submissions

If you submit the survey and later determine that you suffered additional losses, you can re-submit as many times as necessary. If you re-submit, please only re-submit newly realized or quantified damages.

Need Assistance?

If you need assistance with this survey, please contact the VAAFM drought response survey team at AGR.Drought@vermont.gov or 802-828-2430.

Please note: Completion of this survey does NOT replicate reporting to the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA), nor will it take the place of requesting assistance through FSA Programs.

As of October 15, 2025, FSA offices are closed as a result of the federal government shutdown. Response from FSA staff and accessibly to their federal programs will be delayed during this time.

For information on drought navigation and support resources, visit drought.vermont.gov, or reach out to the drought response team via the above email and/or phone number.

2025 Agriculture Drought Impact Survey Questions

Key:

☐ Select Multiple

☐ Select One

* Required Question

1. Your Name*: _____
2. Email address: _____
3. Phone Number (if you don't have email & want to stay in touch): _____
4. Name of your farm, business, or organization*: _____
5. County where your impacts primarily occurred*: _____
6. Town where your impacts primarily occurred*: _____
7. Please identify the primary agricultural sector of your business. (Select one)*
 - ☐ Produce & Horticultural (e.g. grains for human consumption, vegetables, fruits, berries, nursery crops, Christmas trees, hemp)
 - ☐ Dairy
 - ☐ Livestock (e.g. beef, sheep, goat, poultry, eggs, pigs, bees)
 - ☐ Hay and Feed Crops (e.g. corn for grain or silage, soybeans)
 - ☐ Maple
 - ☐ Diversified (i.e. your business comprises a mix of the above listed agricultural sectors and/or a large portion of your annual revenue comes from selling added-value products or from non-farming activities such as on-farm stays and agritourism events.)
8. What does your operation produce? (Select all that apply)*
 - ☐ Apples or tree fruit
 - ☐ Berries
 - ☐ Christmas Trees
 - ☐ Dairy (fluid milk for processed products meeting the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance)
 - ☐ Dairy (raw milk sold under AAFM Tier 1 or Tier 2 requirements)
 - ☐ Eggs
 - ☐ Fiber products
 - ☐ Flowers
 - ☐ Grain
 - ☐ Grapes
 - ☐ Hay or Feed Crops
 - ☐ Hemp
 - ☐ Honey (including bees)
 - ☐ Livestock

*****Additional answer options on next page*****

- ☐ Maple products
- ☐ Mushrooms
- ☐ Nursery Crops
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Vegetables

9. If you selected dairy (fluid milk for processed products meeting the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance), please identify your milk purchaser.

10. How would you classify your farm size? (Select one)*

Generally Speaking:

Small Farm Operation (<50 mature cows, <50 acres crops, etc.)

Certified Small Farm Operation (50-199 mature cows, > 50 acres crops etc.)

Medium Farm Operation (200-699 mature cows, etc.)

Large Farm Operation (700+ mature cows)

Still not sure? Learn about farm size and classifications here: <https://bit.ly/VTFarmSize>

- ☐ Small Farm Operation (SFO)
- ☐ Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO)
- ☐ Medium Farm Operation (MFO)
- ☐ Large Farm Operation (LFO)
- ☐ My operation is not a farm
- ☐ I don't know my classification

11. Is your operation certified organic? (Select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Does not apply

12. Do you have crop or livestock insurance? (Select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Does not apply

13. Please describe your crop or livestock insurance coverage, which may include NAP. (Select all that apply)

- ☐ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Crop or Livestock commodity insurance program
- ☐ USDA Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)
- ☐ Crop or Livestock insurance through a private insurer
- ☐ USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- ☐ No crop or livestock insurance
- ☐ Does not apply

14. Did you enroll in crop or livestock insurance (including NAP) within the last three years? (Select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Does not apply

15. To what entities have you already reported drought impacts? (Select all that apply)

Please note: damage should also be reported to CMOR and the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA).

State and Federal programs rely on comprehensive disaster reports in order to understand the scale and location of impacts. These reports do support certain assistance programs to “open” or become available. So even if you sustained minimal damages, reporting that damage may assist your neighbors and other community members in need of more substantial assistance.

Farm Service Agency (FSA): <https://bit.ly/VermontFSA>

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports on Drought (CMOR): <https://bit.ly/CMOR2025>

- ☐ USDA-FSA
- ☐ National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) Condition Monitoring Observer Reports on Drought (CMOR)
- ☐ Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF)
- ☐ State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- ☐ Have not reported losses

*****Survey continues on next page*****

16. Who have you reached out to for assistance dealing with 2025 drought impacts? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Local Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) Staff
- ☐ Local Farmer's Watershed Group
- ☐ Local Well-Drillers
- ☐ Local Water-Haulers
- ☐ Local USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff
- ☐ University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Staff
- ☐ Vermont Agency of Agriculture (VAAF) Staff
- ☐ Neighbors
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

17. How has the 2025 drought impacted your operation? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Insufficient watering for livestock
- ☐ Irrigate (when previously did not)
- ☐ Haul water (when previously did not)
- ☐ Buy water (when previously did not)
- ☐ Impacted quality of water for safe use
- ☐ Lower crop yields for feed
- ☐ Insufficient pasture for forage
- ☐ Lower crop yields for market
- ☐ Complete crop failure
- ☐ Sold or culled animals
- ☐ Loss of livestock, including poultry and/or bees
- ☐ Lower milk production
- ☐ Lower animal weight/production
- ☐ Loss of crops meant for wholesale or retail markets
- ☐ Loss of crops meant for livestock feed
- ☐ Loss of crops meant for future value-added processing
- ☐ Loss of crops meant for charitable feeding
- ☐ Loss of crops meant for personal/home feeding
- ☐ Damage to soil or land
- ☐ Damage to equipment (e.g. water or irrigation infrastructure)
- ☐ More purchased feed
- ☐ Higher purchased feed prices (including transportation costs)
- ☐ Use more supplemental feed
- ☐ Loss of purchased feeds, agricultural inputs, or supplies
- ☐ Loss of ability to process products (i.e. milk, livestock, etc.)
- ☐ Loss of access to wholesale and retail markets
- ☐ Loss of business income from programming, such as events, agritourism, farmstands, or accessory on-farm business
- ☐ Loss of ability to provide work to employees

18. Of the impacts you selected in question 17 which one is the most detrimental to your business? (Write in one of the above options)

19. What water sources that you use for your business were impacted by the drought? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Stream/River
- ☐ Pond/Lake
- ☐ Dug well/Spring
- ☐ Drilled/Artesian well

20. What water uses were impacted by the drought? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Crop irrigation
- ☐ Livestock water
- ☐ Processing (added value)
- ☐ Cleaning/Wash water
- ☐ Personal Use
- ☐ Farm Worker Housing
- ☐ Other

21. What short-term solutions have you had to implement to deal with drought-related impacts on water sources? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Hauled water (self)
- ☐ Paid for hauled water
- ☐ Pumped water from alternate source
- ☐ Installed transfer system from alternate source
- ☐ Installed a new irrigation system
- ☐ Expanded an existing irrigation system
- ☐ Drilled a new well
- ☐ Hydraulic fracturing an existing well
- ☐ Developed a new spring or dug well

22. What changes, if any, are you considering to your business or land base in the coming years in response to this drought? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Change type of crops grown or livestock raised
- ☐ Change scale of crop production or herd size
- ☐ Close your business
- ☐ Enroll in an insurance program

Additional answer options on next page

- ☐ Explore access to additional acreage
- ☐ Implement new soil building conservation practices
- ☐ Relocate your business entirely
- ☐ Invest in water resource development (irrigation, pond, well, etc.)
- ☐ Purchase more feed than planned
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ No changes

**23. When did you first notice impacts of the drought on your farm or land base in 2025?
(Select one)**

- ☐ January – May
- ☐ June
- ☐ July
- ☐ August
- ☐ September
- ☐ October
- ☐ November
- ☐ December

24. How do the impacts of the 2025 drought differ from prior droughts you have experienced in the same locale? (Select one)

- ☐ Not as bad
- ☐ About the same
- ☐ Worse
- ☐ The worst I've ever seen

25. How many acres of land that you operate (own or rent) do you estimate has been impacted by drought conditions?

_____ acres

26. What are your currently estimated total production losses (in dollars) as a result of the 2025 drought?

\$ _____

27. What are your currently estimated costs (in dollars) as a result of the 2025 drought? (unanticipated purchases and expenditures as a result of drought conditions)

\$ _____

28. Please estimate the percentage of your gross annual income impacted by losses and incurred costs as a result of the 2025 drought.

_____ %

29. Do you anticipate your cash flow going negative as a result of the 2025 drought? If so, how soon? (Select one)

- ☐ I do not anticipate my cash flow going negative
- ☐ Less than one month
- ☐ 1 – 3 months
- ☐ 4 – 6 months
- ☐ 7 – 9 months
- ☐ 10 – 12 months
- ☐ More than 1 year from now

30. Please indicate the severity of your concern regarding livestock feed shortage or problems with feed quality as a result of the drought. (Select one)

- ☐ **Severe** – Feed quality and shortage are already impacting the business financially and could result in the premature sale or culling of animals to navigate the winter
- ☐ **Moderate** – Feed quality and shortages will require me to buy in more feed than usual this winter but do not anticipate selling or culling animals
- ☐ **Minor** – Feed quality and shortages may be impacting production (milk, weight) but do not anticipate needing to buy more feed than usual
- ☐ **None** – I am not experiencing feed quality issues or shortages going into the winter
- ☐ **Does not apply** – I do not feed livestock

31. Which of the following resources do you anticipate needing as you recover from the drought? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Business planning support
- ☐ Crop land or pasture land agronomic assistance
- ☐ Financial support
- ☐ Livestock feed/forage resources
- ☐ Water resources/irrigation
- ☐ Mental health resources
- ☐ Case management
- ☐ Assistance navigating regulations
- ☐ Assistance navigating existing certifications
- ☐ None of the above

32. Did you also experience damage or losses from any of the following events? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ 2023 May Frost
- ☐ 2023 July Flood
- ☐ 2023 Severe Summer Rain
- ☐ 2023 December Flood
- ☐ 2024 January Wind Storm
- ☐ 2024 Severe Summer Rain
- ☐ 2025 Prolonged Spring Rains (wet conditions)
- ☐ 2025 Early Fall Frost
- ☐ None

33. Given the impact of the weather events listed above, what is your perspective on the financial health of your operation over the next year? (Select one)

- ☐ Critical (future of operation is uncertain)
- ☐ Severe (very stressed)
- ☐ Poor (need financial assistance)
- ☐ Moderate (vulnerable to another event)
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Unsure

34. If you have more specific details to share about the impacts to your farm/business caused by the 2025 drought, please comment here. A higher level of detail will help VAAFM and partner organizations understand the characteristics of the 2025 droughts and help make the case for local, state and federal response, relief and preparedness for future droughts.

35. VAAFM is coordinating with partner organizations to provide technical assistance. Please select each organization you authorize VAAFM to share your individual responses with. While this will not guarantee assistance from these organizations, we hope that it might save you time from providing repeat damage overviews to these organizations and help them better understand the impacts to prioritize their assistance and efforts.

Please select each organization for which you authorize VAAFM to share your responses to this survey:

- ☐ Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) of Vermont
- ☐ Office of the Vermont State Climatologist
- ☐ University of Vermont (UVM) Extension
- ☐ USDA – Farm Services Agency (FSA) **(this survey does NOT replace reporting to FSA directly)**
- ☐ USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- ☐ USDA – Rural Development (RD)
- ☐ Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) and your District (NRCD)
- ☐ Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) Farm Viability Program
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ None of the above

END SURVEY