

Health Programs. “These programs support the importance of educating and/or providing critical food animal veterinarians, in both private and public practice, particularly in rural communities that may not be able to provide the funds to offset the high cost of a professional veterinary medical education.”

VMLRP is authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act and helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of debt incurred while pursuing their veterinary medicine degree in return for at least three years of service in a designated veterinary shortage situation.

To be eligible to apply to the VMLRP, an applicant must:

- possess a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM (or equivalent)) degree from a school of Veterinary Medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education;

- have qualified educational loan debt with a combined minimum of \$15,000;

- are able to secure employment in a designated veterinary shortage situation within 90 days of award notification; and

- meet all other terms and conditions of the application process.

Applications may be submitted through April 17.

While TAHC does not administer this program, the commission is designated to nominate and certify veterinary shortage situations identified by USDA.

As a companion to VMLRP, the 2014 Farm Bill authorized the establishment of the VSGP to incentivize service in veterinary shortage situations.

VSGP now has \$4 million in funding for the program. VSGP strives to support through Education, Extension and Training funds for accredited schools and organizations and through Rural Practice Enhancement funds for veterinary clinics that provide services in veterinary shortage situations.

This program aims to bolster the capacity of private practitioners to provide food animal veterinary services by developing, implementing and sustaining these services in designated rural veterinarian shortage situations.

Grants will be made available on a competitive basis to:

- Establish or expand veterinary practices by equipping veterinary offices; sharing in overhead costs; and/or establishing mobile veterinary facilities in which a portion of the facilities will address education or extension needs.

- Establish or expand accredited veterinary education programs, veterinary residency and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

and extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health

professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety and public health. Cover travel and living

expenses of veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technicians. To expose students in grades

11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine. GP applications is March 29 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Water Weekly

For the week of 03/20/23

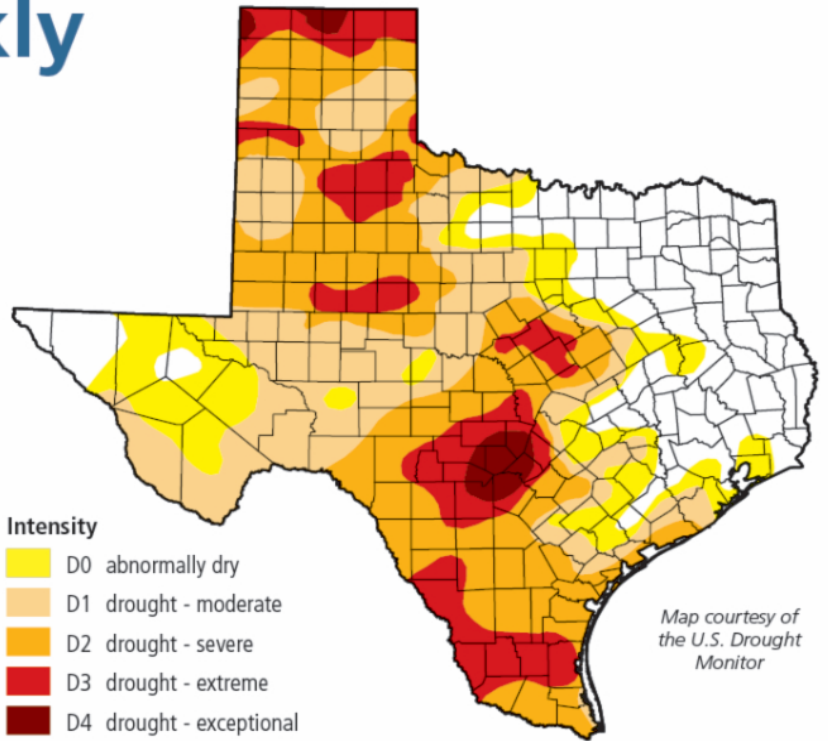
Water conditions

For the fifth consecutive week, the area of the state impacted by drought has expanded. The latest drought monitor map, for conditions as of March 14, shows contraction of drought in north central Texas but expansion in central and south Texas. Drought has reached its largest extent in four months.

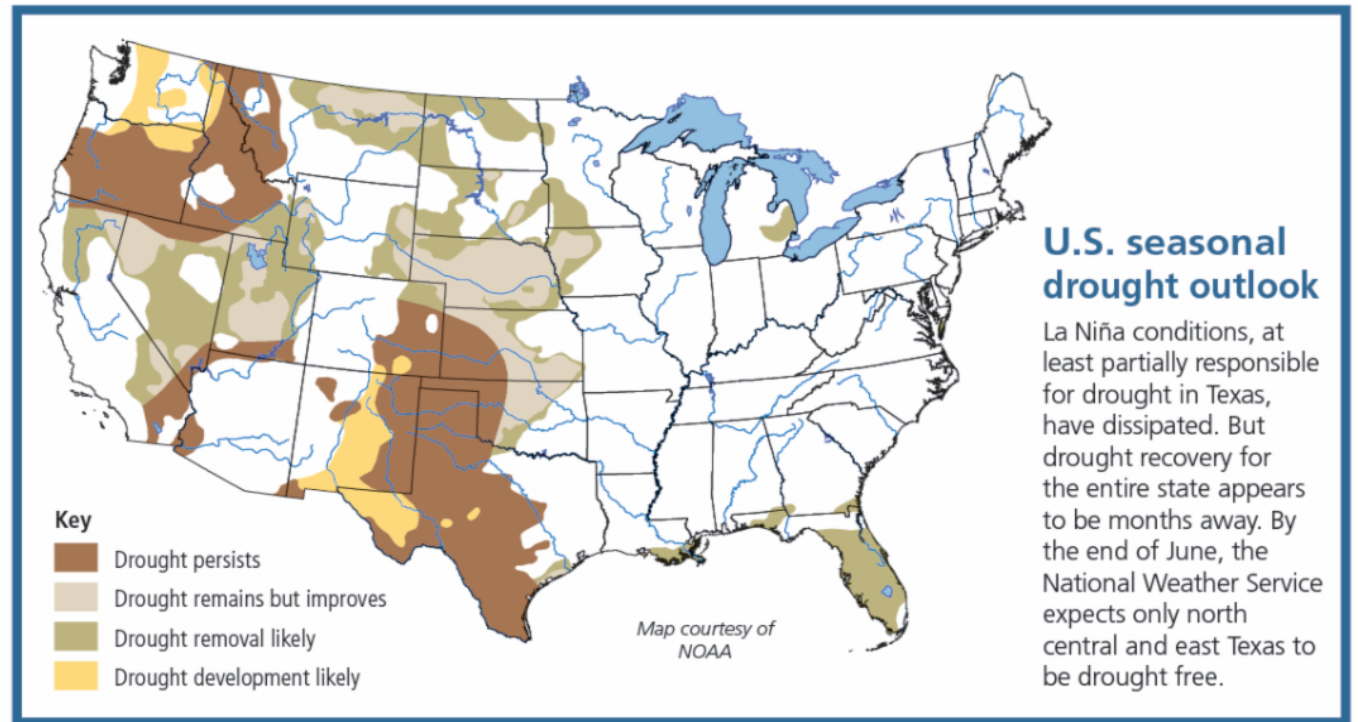
Drought conditions

- 65% now
- 64% a week ago
- 52% three months ago
- 91% a year ago

- Intensity**
- D0 abnormally dry
 - D1 drought - moderate
 - D2 drought - severe
 - D3 drought - extreme
 - D4 drought - exceptional



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor



Written by Dr. Mark Wentzel — Dr. Mark Wentzel is a hydrologist in the TWDB's Office of Water Science and Conservation.

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