



# BOTTINEAU COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

*Preparedness, Planning & Partnership*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### DROUGHT CONDITIONS – EMERGENCY AID AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS

August 24, 2018

Bottineau County has returned to Drought Conditions. We experienced drought the fall of 2017 through and up until the summer of 2018. Our early and mid-summer rains raised our moisture levels out of drought conditions, but our late summer heat and little moisture has again created drought conditions. These prolonged drought conditions are negatively impacting producers in Bottineau and surrounding counties.

Bottineau County hay producers are reporting up to a 75% reduction in available production. This is creating what will be a hay shortage for the 2018/19 winter for some producers in Bottineau County.

Bottineau County has formed a Drought Working Group to address the drought related issues. It consists of Tina Bullinger – FSA USDA Bottineau Office, Amy Sand – USDA Bottineau Office, Sara Clemens – NDSU Extension Agent Bottineau County, and Tim Lewis – Bottineau County Emergency Manager.

The ND Department of Emergency Services (DES) was briefed on the conditions in Bottineau County. On Thursday, August 16, 2018, they held an executive level conference call with state and federal agency heads working to determine assistance that can be made available for Bottineau County producers. This call found that conditions are most severe in Bottineau and McHenry Counties. Producers in the eastern and western sections of ND are reporting strong hay crop production this season. Local producers could possibly augment their hay supplies by buying early from these producers. Producers can use normal networking procedures to find available hay for sale.

DES was also notified that some producers in the Bottineau County area are struggling with water supply issues. We were informed that anyone affected with water issues from our conditions can apply for assistance from the ND State Water Board. This funding is currently available but should be applied for sooner than later. The website to request assistance from the Water Board is:

[http://www.swc.nd.gov/project\\_development/drought\\_disaster\\_livestock.html](http://www.swc.nd.gov/project_development/drought_disaster_livestock.html)

The producers who are finding their hay crops in short supply or reduced production in small grains can apply for assistance with FSA. This is the USDA FSA website for the assistance we qualify for up here in Bottineau County.

[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/emergency-designations/2018/ed\\_2018\\_0731\\_rel\\_0118](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/emergency-designations/2018/ed_2018_0731_rel_0118)

On Thursday, August 23, 2018, the Bottineau FSA Office was notified by the USDA that CRP lands had been approved to be opened for Emergency Grazing and Haying operations by local producers. Producers must contact the local FSA Office in Bottineau to complete an application and obtain guidelines for the use of these emergency acres. Their telephone number is 701-228-3611. Rolette County Emergency Manger, Mike Stewart, also reported that Rolette County was granted the same Emergency authority opening their CRP lands. Landowners with property in Rolette County should contact their local FSA office in Rolla.

The working group will continue to communicate with federal, state, and county leaders and with producers to ensure we are doing all that is possible for those impacted by these drought conditions. Anyone with questions can contact Tim Lewis at 701-228-5916.