

S 5023

Agriculture Disaster Assistance Improvement Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Sep 29, 2022

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S5546-55)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S5546-5548) (Sep 29, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5023>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 29, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 29, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Agriculture Disaster Assistance Improvement Act of 2022

This bill modifies access to Department of Agriculture disaster assistance programs and requires increased interagency cooperation in drought-related activities.

The bill specifies that state and federal grazing permit holders are eligible for the Emergency Conservation Program and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program. Further, emergency measures eligible for payments include new permanent measures, such as permanent water wells and pipelines. The bill also waives the 30-day comment period required for applications under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for emergency measures carried out during a drought emergency.

Modifications to the Livestock Forage Disaster Program allow for one monthly payment when a county has four consecutive weeks of a D2 rating (severe drought) and two payments for eight consecutive weeks of D2. Currently, one payment is available for eight consecutive weeks of D2.

The bill expands coverage for honey bee producers under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) for losses caused by adverse weather or drought, such as transportation costs and reduced honey crops. Further, the bill requires the ELAP payment rate for honey bee producers to incorporate additional factors, such as per-hive and per-colony rates of loss.

The USDA must establish an interagency working group to improve the consistency and accuracy of U.S. Drought Monitor data.

Finally, the Farm Service Agency and the Forest Service must enter into a memorandum of understanding to better align their drought response activities.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 29, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
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