

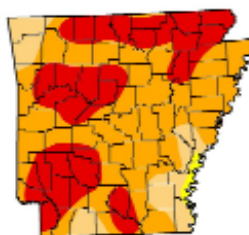
Extreme Drought Strengthens Hold On Arkansas



U.S. Drought Monitor Arkansas July 3, 2012

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	Light	Mod	Sev	Ext	None
Current	0.00	100.00	99.99	97.23	32.95	0.00
1-Month Avg	0.00	88.00	97.11	100.00	99.99	0.00
3-Month Avg	0.00	50.50	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Year of Onset	00.00	12.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Year of End	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	1.00
Days From Onset to End	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	1.00



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. It does not show micro-climate. It is not a forecast. It is a summary for drought conditions.



Released Thursday, July 5, 2012
Risk Ticker: @DroughtMonitor @ArkDrought

What once was cattle pasture in Madison County, Ark., has been reduced to dirt and brown grass by an extended drought

U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture photo by Darrin Henderson

(Photo on Right) July 5 U.S. Drought Monitor Map

Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Extreme drought increased its reach to 35.96 percent of Arkansas, up from just below 32 percent last week, according to Thursday's U.S. Drought Monitor Map.

The state is so dry, the fire danger remains extreme in all 75 counties and burn bans have been enacted in 72 of the state's 75 counties. Only Little River, Calhoun and Desha counties are without one.

All of Madison County, in the state's north-west corner, is rated "severe," the middle step the monitor's drought ratings. Abnormally dry is the least intense. The more intense ratings are moderate, severe and extreme. "Exceptional" drought is the most intense of the drought categories.

Pastures that are nothing more than dirt and stubble, "are what we're seeing here," said Darrin Henderson, Madison County extension staff chair for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. "I don't know what the cows are eating."

"With these 100-degree days and the wind's blowing, it'll take massive amounts of rain to re-

ally turn things around – maybe 5-6 inches over two weeks," he said. "Cattle producers also worry about how much of the forage is already dead, not dormant, and won't come back. They're in a tough spot."

Henderson said that many of the ranchers he's spoken with have given up trying to find hay and are resigning themselves to having to sell their cows.

With so many others in the same boat, the flush of new cattle to sale, "could drive the price down," he said. "If you want to try to buy them back in the spring, you may not be able to afford them."

A new extension fact sheet, "Be Aware and Prepare: Wildfires in Arkansas," is now available from your county extension office or is downloadable from: www.uaex.edu/news/press-room/storm_recovery/BeAware_Wildfires.pdf.

A map of counties with burn bans can be found at www.arkfireinfo.org/index.php?do:showBurnBans, or call your county sheriff's department for burn ban information in your county. Δ