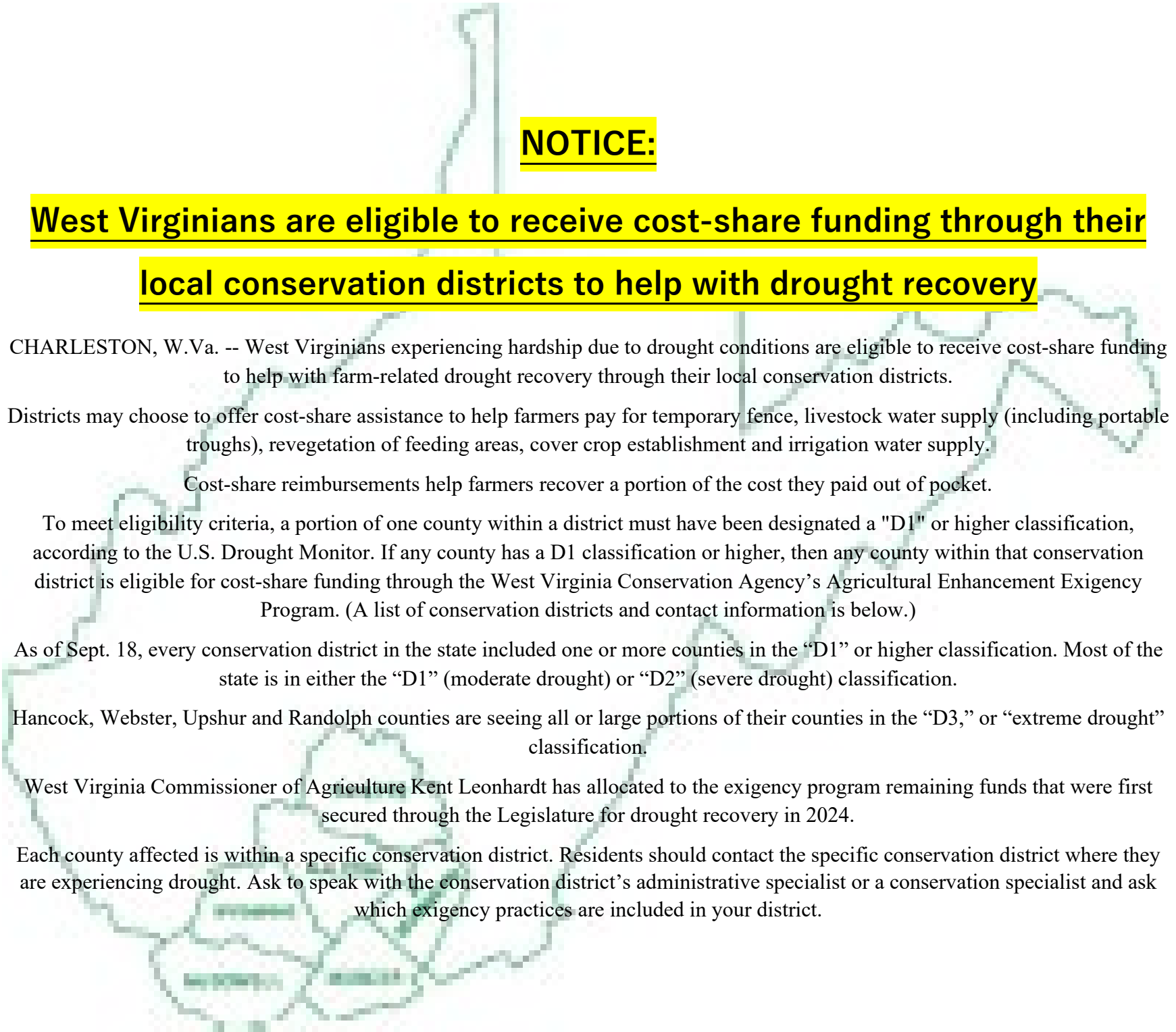




NOTICE:

West Virginians are eligible to receive cost-share funding through their local conservation districts to help with drought recovery

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginians experiencing hardship due to drought conditions are eligible to receive cost-share funding to help with farm-related drought recovery through their local conservation districts.

Districts may choose to offer cost-share assistance to help farmers pay for temporary fence, livestock water supply (including portable troughs), revegetation of feeding areas, cover crop establishment and irrigation water supply.

Cost-share reimbursements help farmers recover a portion of the cost they paid out of pocket.

To meet eligibility criteria, a portion of one county within a district must have been designated a "D1" or higher classification, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. If any county has a D1 classification or higher, then any county within that conservation district is eligible for cost-share funding through the West Virginia Conservation Agency's Agricultural Enhancement Exigency Program. (A list of conservation districts and contact information is below.)

As of Sept. 18, every conservation district in the state included one or more counties in the "D1" or higher classification. Most of the state is in either the "D1" (moderate drought) or "D2" (severe drought) classification.

Hancock, Webster, Upshur and Randolph counties are seeing all or large portions of their counties in the "D3," or "extreme drought" classification.

West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt has allocated to the exigency program remaining funds that were first secured through the Legislature for drought recovery in 2024.

Each county affected is within a specific conservation district. Residents should contact the specific conservation district where they are experiencing drought. Ask to speak with the conservation district's administrative specialist or a conservation specialist and ask which exigency practices are included in your district.

Exigency Funds – Drought Assistance Program

50% cost-share reimbursement, up to \$500 per practice

Practice	Purpose	Covered Items
Cover Crop Establishment	Prevent soil erosion during or after drought	Seed, seeder rental
Revegetation of Feeding Areas	Restore vegetative cover on feeding areas after a declared exigency	Seed, seeder rental
Temporary Fencing	Limit livestock access to protect natural resources	Polywire, high tensile wire, electric net fence, insulators, tighteners, staples, step-in posts, T-posts, wooden posts, corner bracing materials, fence chargers, ground rods, connectors
Livestock Water Supply	Provide emergency livestock hydration during water shortage	Water hauling tanks, portable water troughs, water pumps, public water connection/tap, associated hoses and fittings
Irrigation Water Supply	Supply irrigation water during shortages or water crises	Portable water tank, water pump, portable pipeline, valves and fittings, drip irrigation line, irrigation timer, mulch

💡 **Note:** All practices are subject to a 50% cost-share reimbursement, **not to exceed \$500 per practice.**

📍 **Eligibility:** Available only during declared drought exigencies

For more information regarding drought assistance for Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming counties, please reach out to the Southern Conservation District, which can be reached at: **(304) 253-0261**

OR:

Conservation Specialist for Southern Conservation District, Brian Fry at: **(304) 951-9168**

