



JOHN R. KASICH  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

## Executive Order 2012-11K

Instructing State Agencies to Work with Ohio's Farmers to Minimize the Potential Environmental and Economic Impact of an Agricultural Drought

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is Ohio's number one industry and contributes more than \$105 billion to the economy and provides thousands of jobs to people who live in this state.

**WHEREAS**, Ohio grain, livestock and other farmers stand to face severe financial hardship due to decreased crop yields, total crop losses, and higher grain and feed prices due to a continued lack of rainfall, and abnormally high temperatures.

**WHEREAS**, my Administration is committed to practicing responsible oversight of the food supply in the State of Ohio.

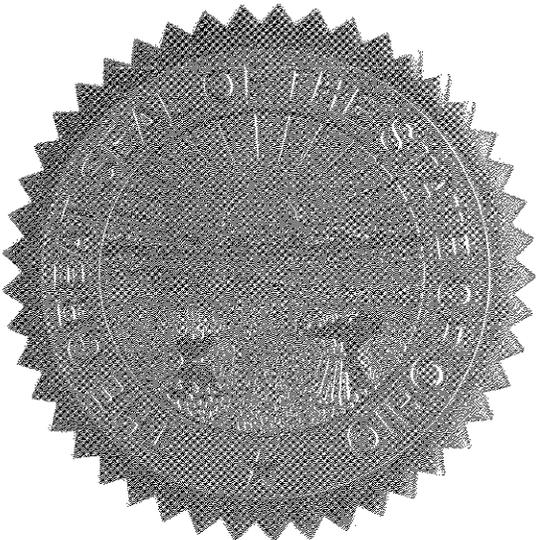
**WHEREAS**, as permitted by Ohio law, I have instructed State Agencies to identify innovative ways to address the observed and potential impact to Ohio's farmers and agribusiness industry.

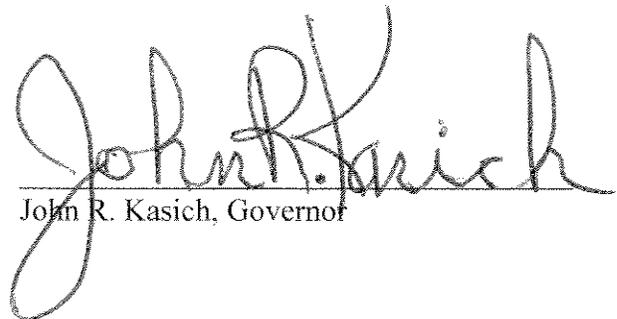
**NOW THEREFORE**, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture shall work with the Governor's office to request access to assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture to help alleviate impacts on Ohio farmers due to agricultural drought conditions.
2. The Ohio Department of Agriculture and other State Agencies, as requested by the Department of Agriculture, and subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors, shall cooperate with local and federal officials to work with Ohio's farmers to do all of the following:
  - a. Protect Ohio's food supply, including crops and livestock;
  - b. Educate Ohio's farmers about the potential adverse impacts of agricultural drought conditions and how these impacts can be mitigated;
  - c. Review existing rules to determine if adoption, amendment, or rescission of a rule may ease the regulatory burdens faced by farmers whose crops have or may be damaged by agricultural drought conditions; and
  - d. Coordinate the availability of all possible state and federal resources that may be available if agricultural drought-like conditions continue.

3. The Ohio Department of Agriculture shall establish a series of regional drought meetings to discuss forage management, water availability, and heat stress among livestock and other drought-related topics.
4. The Ohio Department of Agriculture shall advise my office about ongoing developments or changes related to Ohio's agricultural drought conditions.
5. The Ohio Department of Agriculture shall establish a website that tracks hay availability for Ohio's livestock producers.
6. The Ohio Department of Agriculture shall continue to participate in bi-weekly Drought Assessment Committee meetings led by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.
7. All State Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and the Drought Assessment Committee shall continue to monitor the situation to determine if further action by the State is necessary.
8. The Ohio Department of Transportation shall assist farmers who own the land adjacent to state rights-of-way, and allow them to apply for permits to harvest grasses for their personal livestock where feasible, safe, and without inconveniencing the traveling public.

I signed this Executive Order on July 25, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will expire on my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.



  
John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Husted, Secretary of State