

**TITLE 35. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND
FORESTRY
CHAPTER 56. EMERGENCY DROUGHT COMMITTEE [NEW]**

RULEMAKING ACTION:

Notice of proposed **PERMANENT** rulemaking

PROPOSED RULES:

Subchapter 1. General Provisions [NEW]

35:56-1-1. Purpose [NEW]

35:56-1-2. Primary Agency [NEW]

35:56-1-3. Considerations to Convene a Meeting [NEW]

35:56-1-4. Meetings; When Convened [NEW]

35:56-1-5. Emergency Drought Programs [NEW]

SUMMARY:

The Emergency Drought Commission, enabled through passage of Enrolled House Bill 1923 in 2013, provides funding for drought mitigation and related projects in Oklahoma in conjunction with a formal gubernatorial drought declaration. The Emergency Drought Commission determines the expenditures to be made from the Emergency Drought Relief Fund and the appropriate agency to expend the funds. The activities of the Emergency Drought Commission will continue until it is determined by the Governor that a drought emergency no longer exists in the state. Specific assistance projects are limited to the affected counties and must be approved by the Oklahoma Emergency Drought Commission. The Emergency Drought Commission also serves as a permanent drought advisory panel to the Governor and appropriate state agencies. The Emergency Drought Commission has the authority to consider requests for use of Emergency Drought Relief Funds from proposed projects located, or operating, within one, or more, of Oklahoma's 77 counties. The new rules establish transparent criteria for determining drought conditions that prompt the Secretary of Agriculture to convene an Emergency Drought Committee Meeting, initiating emergency drought assistance programs, scheduling and conducting meetings, reviewing program actions, and presenting final reports. The rules also establish the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry as the primary agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the Open Meetings and Open Records Acts.

AUTHORITY:

Okla. Const., Art. 6, § 31; State Board of Agriculture; 2 O.S. § 2-4(A)(2) and (20); 27A O.S. 2250-52; E.O. 2022-23.

COMMENT PERIOD:

Persons may submit written comments to Kiersten Wormus at kiersten.wormus@ag.ok.gov, 2800 North Lincoln Boulevard, P.O. Box 528804, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-8804 during the period beginning October 15, 2025, and ending November 14, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m., November 17, 2025, in the ODAFF Board Room, located at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, 2800 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:

Business entities affected by these proposed rules are requested to provide the agency with information, in dollar amounts, if possible, about the increase in the level of direct costs, indirect

costs, or other costs expected to be incurred by the business entity due to compliance with the proposed rules. Business entities may submit this information in writing to Kiersten Wormus at the address listed above during the period beginning October 15, 2025, and ending November 14, 2025.

COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:

Copies of proposed rules may be obtained by visiting <http://app.ag.ok.gov/proposedrules/default.aspx> or by contacting Kiersten Wormus at the address listed above.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

Pursuant to 75 O.S. § 303(D), a rule impact statement is available at the address listed above.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kiersten Wormus, (405) 522-5803, e-mail address: at Kiersten.wormus@ag.ok.gov.