



EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR 2022 WILDFIRES - NEBRASKA

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures, such as fences damaged by natural disasters, including wildfire. It is a cost-share program.

Eligible Farmland Restoration Practices

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- Removing debris from farmland (cleanup of wind or water deposited debris, such as woody material, sand, rock and trash on cropland or pastureland);
- Grading, shaping or leveling land (filling gullies, releveling irrigated farmland and incorporating sand and silt);
- **Restoring fences (livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates, or wildlife exclusion fence on agricultural land);**
- Restoring conservation structures (waterways, terraces, diversion ditches and permanently installed ditching system); and
- Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought (grazing and confined livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards).

ADDITIONAL INFO: RESTORING FENCING

- * After installation, fence must function similar to how it functioned before wildfire;
- * Cost-share authorized for fencing for livestock inclusion, wildlife exclusion used to protect crops, cross fence, boundary fence, cattle gates;
- * Fencing must be placed in exact same place as previous fence due to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

How to Apply for ECP Assistance

1. Producer or USDA documents damage with dated photographs, videos and third-party verification.
2. Producer reports to their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to request assistance (immediate restoration applies only to emergency situations such as putting up fencing to confine livestock).
3. The county FSA office will initiate the approval process, guidance and next steps.

Cost-Share Payments

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved/eligible* restoration practices; *new or used materials, services, labor and equipment;
- Up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices for producers who certify as limited resource, socially-disadvantaged or beginning farmers/ranchers;
- Limited to \$500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster;
- Available as an advance payment of up to 25 percent of expected cost-share, for only the replacement or restoration of fencing.

Must Have FSA Approval Before You Begin

You must have approval in writing from FSA before you begin any restoration work if you want to use this cost-share program. For more information, contact your county FSA office. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

