



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH PROGRAM (ELAP) FOR 2022 WILDFIRES – NEBRASKA

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides financial assistance to eligible livestock producers who are suffering a grazing loss or feed loss due to an eligible wildfire.

Are My Livestock Eligible?

For livestock feed and grazing losses, livestock must be:

- Grazing animals, such as alpacas, adult or non-adult dairy cattle, adult or non-adult beef cattle, adult or non-adult buffalo, adult or non-adult beefalo, deer, elk, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer and sheep;
- Livestock that would normally have been grazing the effected eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period or the specific pasture type of grazing land or pastureland that was affected by wildfire;
- Owned, cash-leased, purchased, under contract for purchase or been raised by a contract grower or an eligible livestock producer, during the 60 calendar days prior to the beginning date of the eligible wildfire; and
- Maintained for commercial use as part of the producer's farming operation on the beginning date of wildfire.



Am I Eligible?

An eligible producer is a person or legal entity who, in addition to satisfying other payment eligibility requirements, is an owner or contract grower of livestock that shares in the risk of producing the livestock who:

- During the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the wildfire owned, cash-leased, purchased, entered in to contract to purchase or been a contract grower of eligible livestock;
- Suffered a loss on land that is either:
 - Native or improved pastureland with a permanent vegetative cover; or
 - Planted to a crop specifically for the purpose of providing grazing for covered livestock;
 - Provided pastureland or grazing land during the normal grazing period to eligible livestock including cash-leased pastureland or grazing land for livestock that is physically located in the county where the wildfire occurred.

What Losses Are Covered Under This Program?

Eligible losses due to wildfire are:

- Grazing loss
- Purchased or produced feed loss
- Additional cost of purchasing feed above normal quantities
- Cost for transporting feed directly to livestock (i.e. equipment rental)





What Documentation Do I Need?

Grazing Loss

Producers must provide verifiable or reliable documentation of either of the following:

- Additional livestock feed fed above normal quantities required to maintain the livestock until additional feed is available
- Proof of removing the livestock from the affected pasture acres.

Purchased and Produced Feed Loss (for example bales, either produced by producer or purchased by producer, burned in the fire)

Producers must provide verifiable or reliable documentation of either of the following:

- Purchased feed receipt with date of purchase; name, address, and telephone number of feed vendor; type and quantity of feed purchased; cost of feed purchased; and signature of feed vendor, if not licensed.
- Produced feed records must be provided that indicate the producer has the ability to produce the type and amount of feed needed or paid for the production of the feed by someone else.

Additional Feed Purchased Above Normal Quantities

Producers must provide verifiable or reliable documentation of either of the following:

- Purchased feed receipt for the current program year with date of purchase; name, address, and telephone number of feed vendor; type and quantity of feed purchased; cost of feed purchased; and signature of feed vendor, if not licensed.
- Purchased feed receipt for prior two program years for the same loss period with date of purchase; name, address, and telephone number of feed vendor; type and quantity of feed purchased; cost of feed purchased; and signature of feed vendor, if not licensed.

Cost for Transporting Feed Directly to Livestock (for example equipment rental)

Producers must provide verifiable or reliable documentation of either of the following:

- Required documentation for purchased and produced feed loss or additional feed purchased above normal quantities
- Receipts or invoices of the additional expenses to directly transport feed to livestock.

Note: If verifiable or reliable records are not available, COC may accept a producer certification if other similar producers have comparable losses.

How Are Payments Calculated?

- For lost grazing, the financial assistance formula uses 60 percent of the number of acres affected by the wildfire, the normal carrying capacity of the acres, the daily value of grazing and the number of grazing days lost, not to exceed 180 days, in the calculation.
- For lost livestock feed, the financial assistance formula uses 60 percent of the actual value of the feed purchased or value of the feed produced that was physically damaged or destroyed.
- For additional costs incurred for purchasing livestock feed above normal quantities, the financial assistance formula uses 60 percent of the actual costs of purchase.
- For additional costs incurred for transporting livestock feed, the financial assistance formula uses 60 percent of the actual value of the costs of transporting the livestock feed.
- Historically underserved producers who certify being socially disadvantaged, beginning farmer or rancher, or limited resource farmer or rancher may be paid at a 90 percent payment factor instead of the 60 percent payment factor.

What Is The Deadline to Apply?

- Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss was first apparent.
- Application for payment must be filed by January 30, 2023.