DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Emergency Assistance for Wildfire

When disaster strikes, we're here to help you. The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) offer a variety of recovery programs and insurance products to help farmers, ranchers and communities that have been hard-hit by wildfire. Learn about the programs that can help you recover from wildfire:

Farm Service Agency Programs

DISASTER EFFECT/ CHALLENGE		PROGRAM(S)	HOW IT PAYS	DEADLINES	DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS
LIVESTOCK	Livestock death	Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)	Per-head reimbursement for death losses in excess of normal mortality; For injured livestock sold at a reduced rate no later than 30 calendar days after the end date of the applicable eligible event.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Inventory records pre-and post- disaster; proof of livestock death (photos); vet records and third-party certifications in conjunction with documentation of beginning inventory.
	Stored feed destroyed	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	Reimburses additional costs associated with destroyed stored feedstuffs.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Purchase receipts; proof of existing feed stuffs pre-disaster; proof of livestock inventory.
		Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	Available Unit Months (AUM) grazing losses reimbursed on affected burned acres.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Leases/deeds; proof of livestock inventory.
		Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Per statute, up to 90% cost-share for socially disadvantaged producers, limited resource, and beginning farmers or ranchers and up to 75% for all other producers not to exceed $500,000 or 50% of the agricultural value of the affected land to replace fences and clean up debris; will also replace watering facilities. Advanced payments of up to 25% is available.	30-60 days after sign-up period is announced.	Needs assessment completed by FSA or engineering plan by NRCS. Work can't start until plan is developed, environmental review is complete, and approval is issued to applicant, participant must retain documentation of costs (cost/ labor/logs) and submit to FSA for payment.
		Emergency Haying or Grazing of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)* **When authorized, CRP Participants outside the burn area may donate emergency haying and grazing benefits to fire-impacted producers provided the CRP participant county is eligible for emergency haying or grazing.*	Emergency Haying outside of the primary nesting season: one cutting may be authorized up to 60 days from when the activity is approved or from when the participant receives their NRCS modified conservation plan during the program year. Emergency Haying is not authorized within the primary nesting season. Emergency grazing is only authorized during the primary nesting season in counties that have met the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) drought trigger of D2 for 8 weeks, D3, or D4 and grazing is limited to 50% carrying capacity.	September 30 of each year. Activities that may stretch into the next fiscal year will affect that year's availability.	Consult your local FSA County Office before taking any action. FSA County Committees determine eligibility using the U.S. Drought Monitor or other natural disaster resulting in forage loss. All requests for Emergency Activities must be pre- approved by the County Office Committee Actual acreage grazed or hayed will be submitted to the local FSA office.

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LIVESTOCK	Stored feed destroyed	Non-Emergency Haying or Grazing of the Conservation Reserve Program Under no circumstances may non-emergency haying or grazing be permitted if such activity would cause long-term damage to the vegetative cover on the land, determined on a contract by contract basis.	Participants can graze eligible CRP fields for up to 120 days outside of the Primary Nesting Season or During the PNS with a 50% reduction in carrying capacity. 25% reduction in annual rental payment applies. Participants can hay eligible CRP fields one time outside of the Primary Nesting Season. Haying is not authorized during the PNS. 25% reduction in annual rental payment applies. Beginning Farmers can graze outside the Primary Nesting Season No Payment Reduction to Annual Rental Rate Applies.	Not more than every other year. Not more than once every 3 years with 25% of the acreage unharvested. May be conducted annually by a beginning farmer or rancher with a contract share greater than zero.	Consult your local FSA County Office before taking any action. County Office, County Committee pre-approval, and modified Conservation Plan required. Actual acreage grazed or hayed will be provided to the local office.
	Stored feed destroyed	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	Grazed forage losses are collective losses determined throughout the grazing period to account for lost production for all natural disasters affecting the grazed forage. Payment is based on the loss of expected Animal Unit Days (AUDs) over 50% at 55% of the established daily AUD value.	For grazed forage producers using independent assessments or alternative collective percentage of loss methods the application for payment deadline is 180 calendar days after the end of the coverage period.	Requires an application for coverage prior to the coverage period, acreage report, and application for payment. Noninsured Crop Disaster Program Coverage is available if a CCC-860 was on file with FSA prior to the disaster event.
		Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)	For fire on federally managed land, 50% of the monthly feed costs for the number of days livestock producers are prohibited to graze. For drought, 60% of monthly feed costs for 1 to 5 months, depending on the qualifying drought severity on both private and federally managed grazing land.	Apply by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Livestock inventories, leases, acreage report of grazed acreage affected by drought or wildfire.
	Purchased additional feed	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	When additional feed above normal is purchased for grazing livestock due to a qualified disaster condition.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Receipts to show proof of purchased feed above normal.
	Hauling livestock or feed to livestock	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	Payment for mileage incurred above 25 miles/ loaded trip, not to exceed 1,000 miles per trip. Visit fsa.usda.gov/elap and use the online tool to help document and estimate payments.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Mileage log; shipping bills; note that nautical miles are not currently eligible.
	Hauling water to livestock	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	Payment per gallon hauled to livestock.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Receipts for water hauling; mileage log with date and number of gallons hauled.
	Increased cost of feed delivery	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	Reimbursement of increased cost of feed delivery with stored feed being destroyed and/or additional feed.	Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Receipts for increased cost of feed delivery.

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LIVESTOCK	Water pipes, pumps or troughs damaged	Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Per statute, up to 90% Cost-share for socially disadvantaged producers, limited resource, and beginning farmers or ranchers /Up to 75% for all other producers not to exceed $500,000 or 50% of the agricultural value of the affected land to replace watering facilities. Advanced payments of up to 25% is available.	30-60 days after sign-up period is announced.	Needs assessment completed by FSA or engineering plan by NRCS. Work can't start until plan is developed, environmental review is complete, and approval is issued to applicant; participant must retain documentation of costs (cost/ labor/logs) and submit to FSA for payment.
	Burned forest	Emergency Forestry Restoration Program (EFRP)	75% Cost-share reimbursement for owners of nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF); not to exceed $500,000 payment limit to remove debris, restore fencing and forest roads, and reestablish grass and trees on NIPF.	30-180 day sign-up period to be announced.	Forest restoration plan developed by forester; work can't start until plan is developed, environmental review is complete and approval is issued to applicant; participant must retain documentation of costs and submit to FSA for payment.
FRUITS/VEGETABLES	Damaged crop	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	Yield-based disaster payment; must have had coverage prior to disaster event; coverage available if a CCC- 860 was on file with FSA prior to disaster.	Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the loss becoming apparent or 15 days after harvest. Producers of hand harvested crops must also notify FSA within 72 hours of the loss becoming apparent. Application for payment must be filed within 60 days after coverage period ends.	Production records by crop and irrigation practice ideally for prior years; harvest records if partial crop is going to be harvested.
	Debris removal	Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Per statute, up to 90% Cost-share for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers or ranchers/Up to 75% for all other producers not to exceed $500,000 or 50% of the agricultural value of the affected land to clean up debris. Advanced payments of up to 25% is available.	30-60 days after sign-up period is announced.	Needs assessment completed by FSA or engineering plan by NRCS. Work can't start until plan is developed, environmental review is complete, and approval is issued to applicant; participant must retain documentation of costs (cost/ labor/logs) and submit to FSA for payment.
TREES/NUTS	Dead or damaged trees or fences	Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	Cost-share to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes, and vines lost.	Submit application and supporting documentation to FSA within 90 days.	Evidence of loss; receipts for approved work completed, trees purchased, etc. Labor logs if labor performed by yourself. CANNOT start until the FSA-850 (Environmental Screening Worksheet) is complete.
		Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Per statute, up to 90% Cost-share for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers or ranchers/Up to 75% for all other producers not to exceed $500,000 or 50% of the agricultural value of the affected land to clean up debris and provide emergency water for orchards/ vineyards. Advanced payments of up to 25% is available.	30-60 days after sign-up period is announced.	Needs assessment completed by FSA or engineering plan by NRCS. Work can't start until plan is developed, environmental review is complete, and approval is issued to applicant; participant must retain documentation of costs (cost/ labor/logs) and submit to FSA for payment.
		Emergency Forestry Restoration Program (EFRP)	75% Cost-share reimbursement for owners of nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF); not to exceed $500,000 payment limit to remove debris, restore fencing and forest roads, and reestablish grass and trees on NIPF.	30-180 day sign-up period to be announced.	Forest restoration plan developed by forester; work can't start until plan is developed, environmental review is complete and approval is issued to applicant; participant must retain documentation of costs and submit to FSA for payment.

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HONEY BEES/ AQUACULTURE	Honeybee death loss, hive losses, and feed losses.	Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)	Honeybees: Colony and hive loss payments Aquaculture: Lost feed payments eligible, death loss is not eligible.	Honeybees: Notify FSA of losses by March 1 following the end of the calendar year in which the disaster circumstance occurred.*	Inventory records pre-disaster; proof of death loss; proof of good growing practices/disease prevention.
	Honey Yield-based Losses	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	Yield-based disaster payment for honey losses only; loss of colonies or bees and colony collapse disorder (CCD) not eligible. Coverage available if a CCC-860 was on file with FSA prior to disaster.	Report number of colonies in all counties by January 2; notify FSA within 30 days of changes in number of colonies and counties which bees are moved. A Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the loss becoming apparent or 15 days after harvest. Application for payment must be filed within 60 days after coverage period ends (December 31 = end of coverage period for honey).	Production records for all honey harvested in the calendar year. Requires an application for coverage prior to the coverage period. Coverage available if a CCC-860 was on file with FSA prior to the disaster event.

**On years where the March 1 deadline falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline is the following Monday.*

FSA LOAN PROGRAMS (MAKING & SERVICING)	Access to Affordable Financing Options	Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans	FSA offers a variety of direct and guaranteed operating and ownership farm loans to producers who are unable to secure commercial financing. These loan programs help producers recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help producers replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed, and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs. Use the online loan assistance tool at lat.fpac.usda.gov to check your eligibility for FSA loans, discover the various FSA loan products, learn about documentation requirements, and follow easy to understand instructions when completing the loan application forms.
		Emergency Loans	Available in areas declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area (including designated contiguous counties) or quarantine area or in areas having an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification (APLN)
		Loan Servicing Options (for existing FSA Farm Loan borrowers)	When FSA loan borrowers are unable to make scheduled payments on their FSA farm loan programs debt because of reasons beyond their control, federal law provides a process by which their FSA loan accounts may be serviced to avoid foreclosure and liquidation.
		Disaster Set Aside (for existing FSA loan borrowers)	When FSA loan borrowers located in designated disaster areas or contiguous (adjoining) counties are unable to make their scheduled payment on any FSA debt, FSA is authorized to consider set-aside of one payment to allow the operation to continue.
		Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs)	FSFLs provide low-interest financing (including a microloan option) so producers can build, repair, replace, or upgrade permanent and portable storage facilities and equipment. Eligible facility types include grain bins, hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying and handling and storage equipment is also eligible, including storage and handling trucks. Eligible facilities and equipment may be new or used, permanently affixed or portable. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, hemp, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, maple syrup, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture. Contact FSA for FSFL loan terms and limits.

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In addition to the Farm Service Agency programs outlined above, here are some additional resources from USDA and partners:

Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements on the land including financial assistance to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters. These practices include activities like stream bank restoration, grassed waterways and buffers. NRCS-funded conservation practices protect your land from erosion, support disaster recovery and repair and can help mitigate loss from future natural disasters. Assistance may also be available for emergency animal mortality disposal from natural disasters and other causes.

Emergency Watershed Program (EWP-Recovery) – offers vital recovery options for local communities to help people reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Project funds address erosion related watershed impairments by supporting activities such as removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; and reseeding damaged areas.

Visit your local USDA Service Center to learn more and apply.

Risk Management Agency Programs

RMA serves America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities. These tools include both crop and livestock insurance products that can be tailored to meet individual producer needs. Insurance indemnities are earned on policies when qualifying losses and perils impact the insured crop or livestock policy. For more information on RMA crop and livestock insurance products, contact your local crop insurance agent or visit rma.usda.gov.

Other Resources

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Program is a network that connects individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations to stress assistance programs. The establishment of a network that assists farmers and ranchers in time of stress can offer a conduit to improving behavioral health awareness, literacy, and outcomes for agricultural producers, workers and their families.

Visit nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/farm-ranch-stress-assistance-network-frsan to learn more.

For more information on disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov/protection-recovery, call the FSA call center at 877-508-8364 or contact your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator.

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