



Farm Service Agency Updates

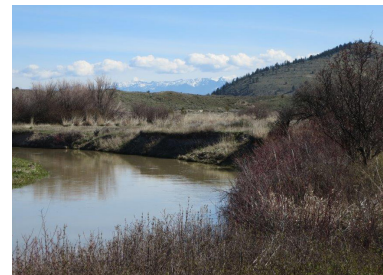
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Conservation Reserve Program

General Signup 60 Period Feb. 27, 2023 through
Apr 7, 2023



Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct a general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup from Feb. 27, 2023, through April 7, 2023. is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for this general CRP signup period will become effective Oct. 1, 2023. CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support.

Submitting General CRP Offers

Land not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered during this general CRP signup period. In addition, CRP producers whose CRP contracts are expiring on Sept. 30, 2023, may offer the expiring land in general CRP signup 60. To submit general CRP offers, producers must contact their local FSA office. FSA will accept general CRP offers only during the signup period.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for general CRP, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this general CRP signup period, unless:



- ◆ The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- ◆ The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- ◆ The circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

What Land is Eligible?

To be eligible for general CRP, land must be cropland (including field margins) planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017 and be physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal

For More Information

On CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program."

On EBI for the general CRP signup period is available by reading the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment, Environmental Benefits Index."

On continuous CRP Signup 59 is available in the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up".

Visit fsa.usda.gov. To locate your local FSA office, visit: farmers.gov/service-locator.

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details.



manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may also be eligible.

Additional Cropland Requirements

In addition to the eligible land requirements for the general CRP signup period, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- ♦ Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- ♦ Be expiring CRP acres or;
- ♦ Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

CRP Payments

FSA provides producers whose offers are selected for general CRP enrollment with annual rental payments and cost share assistance.

- ♦ **Rental Payments:** In return for establishing permanent resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash

rent subject to a statutory 85 percent proration. County office staff working with the producer will calculate the maximum CRP rental rate for each offer. Producers may offer land below the rate to increase the likelihood their offer will be accepted.

- ♦ **Cost-Share Assistance:** FSA provides cost share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.
- ♦ **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive:** FSA provides an incentive of 3, 5, or 10 percent included in the annual rental payment for CRP practices that will increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise are climate smart practices. The incentive amount is based on the estimated benefits of each practice.

Ranking General CRP Offers

FSA will rank offers for the general CRP signup period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information and selected conservation practice) and determines the environmental indices for the land offered. FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers and selects from that ranking. After the signup period ends, the Secretary of Agriculture will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Those who have met previous EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this signup period. Producers may consult with local FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) staff on how to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood their offer will be accepted.

Continuous CRP Signup 59

In addition to the general CRP signup 60 period, producers can offer their most environmentally sensitive land in continuous CRP signup 59.

Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Grassland Signup 205 – April 17, 2023 through May 26, 2023



Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers to help landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and eligible land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. CRP participants develop and implement conservation plans that work alongside their haying and grazing operations. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for this grassland CRP signup period will become effective October 1, 2023.

Submitting Grassland CRP Offers

Land not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered during this grassland CRP signup period. In addition, CRP producers whose CRP contracts are expiring on Sept. 30, 2023, may offer the expiring land in grassland CRP signup 205. To submit grassland CRP offers, producers must contact their local FSA Office. FSA will accept grassland CRP offers only during the signup period.

What Land is Eligible?

To be eligible for grassland CRP, land must have an established cover containing forbs or shrubs, be located in an area historically dominated by grassland, provides habitat for animal and plant populations of significant ecological value, or is expiring CRP. Offered Land with more than 5% tree canopy is ineligible for grassland CRP.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for grassland CRP, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this grassland CRP signup period, unless:

- ♦ The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- ♦ The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- ♦ The circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA the new owner did not acquire the land for the purposes of placing it in CRP.

Grassland CRP Payments?

FSA provides producer whose offers are selected for grassland CRP enrollment with annual rental payments and cost share assistance.

More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit fsa.usda.gov or your local FSA office.

To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/servicelocator.



- ♦ **Rental Payments:** In return for implementing conservation measures into a haying and grazing plan, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the value of the grazing land. County office staff works with the producers to calculate the maximum CRP rental rate for each offer. Producers may offer land below the maximum rate to increase the likelihood of their offer being accepted.
- ♦ **Cost-Share Assistance:** FSA provides cost share assistance to participants who install approved fencing or livestock watering facilities are needed to facilitate grazing distribution. The cost share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to install approved infrastructure. Boundary fences are not eligible for cost share assistance.

Grassland CRP rental rates may be viewed in your local USDA Service Center or [online](#).

Ranking Grassland CRP Offers

FSA will rank offers for grassland CRP enrollment according to several ranking factors. FSA collects data based on location of the offer and the operations and determines the environmental indices for the land offered. FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers and selects from that ranking. After enrollment period ends, the Secretary of Agriculture will decide where to make the ranking score cutoff. Those who have met previous ranking score thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this enrollment period. Producers may consult with local FSA and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff on how to maximize ranking scores and increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

Grassland CRP permits producers to graze, harvest hay, and seed production while receiving an annual rental payment for maintaining the existing permanent cover that is offered. Producers are required to maintain and complete any maintenance/enhancements needed on the grassland CRP. This includes any seeding of grasses or legumes along with applying applicable fertilizer and chemical applications. All activities are subject to a Conservation Plan, with certain restriction for haying during the primary nesting season.



Farm Service Agency

Conservation Reserve Program – Continuous Enrollment Period

FACT SHEET
May 2022

Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Signup.

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers"), to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized CRP. The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. To offer land for continuous enrollment, producers should contact their local FSA office.

Benefits

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. The vegetative covers also make CRP a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

Administration

FSA administers CRP while technical support functions are provided by:

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- State forestry agencies;
- Local soil and water conservation districts; and
- Other non-federal providers of technical assistance



Continuous Enrollment

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods.

If the offered acres are currently enrolled in CRP under a CRP contract that expires September 30, then the effective start date of the new CRP contract must be the following October 1.

If the offered acres are not currently enrolled in CRP, then the producer may choose to defer the effective start date of the new CRP contract for up to six months after the offer is approved.

Who is Eligible?

A producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law; or
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.



CRP – CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PERIOD - MAY 2022

Eligible Land

Land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Certain marginal pastureland that may be devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers is also eligible.

Eligible Practices

Land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices:

- Grass Waterway
- Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
- Contour Grass Strip
- Filter Strip
- Riparian Buffer
- Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strip and Riparian Buffer
- Saturated Filter Strip and Riparian Buffer
- Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds
- Wetland & Buffer SAFE Practices
- Wetland Restoration on Floodplain and Non- floodplain
- Prairie Strips
- Windbreaks, Shelterbelts and Living Snow Fences
- Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer and Wildlife Habitat Buffers
- Long Leaf Pine Establishment
- Duck Nesting Habitat
- Pollinator Habitat
- Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) Constructed Wetland
- FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
- FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland
- Farmable Wetlands and Farmable Wetland Buffer
- Wellhead Protection Area Practices
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
- Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI)

Payments

Under CRP continuous signup, FSA provides eligible participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance.

A Signup Incentive Payment of 32.5 percent of the first full year annual rental payment is paid at contract approval on all newly enrolled Continuous CRP contract acreage. A Practice Incentive Payment of up to 50 percent is paid for installing the practice.

Annual Rental Payments

- In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments at 90 percent of the existing rate to eligible CRP continuous participants based on per acre cropland and marginal pasture land rental rates, plus a 10 percent “inflationary” adjustment, determined by FSA.
- The per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate or \$300/acre. Producers may elect to receive a rental rate amount less than the maximum payment rate.
- **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive:** FSA provides an incentive of 3, 5, or 10 percent for CRP practices that will increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise are climate smart practices. The incentive amount is based on the estimated benefits of each practice.
- **Water Quality Incentive:** FSA provides a 20 percent rental rate incentive for CRP water quality practices that will improve water quality by reducing sediment loading, nutrient loading and harmful algae blooms.

Cost-Share Assistance

Cost-share of up to 50 percent of the re- reimbursable cost of installing the practice is provided by FSA. Cost-share assistance is not available for any management activity.

More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit:

[farmers.gov/ service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator)

Nationwide CLEAR30 Pilot



The Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative offers 30-year contracts through its CLEAR30 pilot. FSA introduced this pilot in 2020, originally focused on 12 states in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watershed. CLEAR30 is now available nationwide.

CRP provides farmers and landowners with different signup types, practices and initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals.

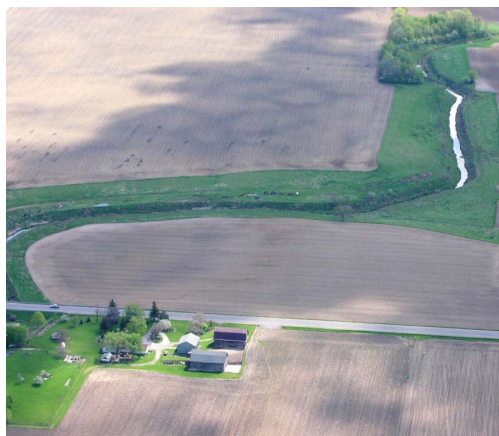
The CLEAR30 Pilot is available in all States and territories. This provides the opportunity to enroll in a 30-year CRP contract.

Practices Offered in CLEAR30 Pilot

Certain water quality practices currently enrolled under continuous CRP or CREP contracts that are expiring on September 30, 2023 may be offered into CLEAR30. If re-enrolled these practices, will continue to reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with different signup types, practices and initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals.

Producers may reenroll these expiring CRP Practices in CLEAR30:

- ◆ CP-8A – Grass Waterways
- ◆ CP-15A – Contour Grass Strips
- ◆ CP-15B – Contour Grass Strips on Terraces
- ◆ CP-21 – Filter Strips
- ◆ CP21B – Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strip
- ◆ CP21S – Saturated Filter Strips
- ◆ CP22 – Riparian Buffer
- ◆ CP22B – Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
- ◆ CP22S – Saturated Riparian Buffer
- ◆ CP23 – Wetland Restoration
- ◆ CP23A – Wetland Restoration, Non flood plain
- ◆ CP29 – Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
- ◆ CP30 – Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
- ◆ CP31 – Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
- ◆ CP37 – Duck Nesting Habitat



CLEAR Continued Impacts

- ◆ Decreased Erosion
- ◆ Improved Water Quality
- ◆ Increase Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ Longer Term Conservation

More Information

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit fsa.usda.gov or your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/servicelocator.

CLEAR30 is an option available through CRP, which is one of the largest voluntary private- lands conservation programs in the United States. CRP was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and stabilize commodity prices by taking environmentally sensitive lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing numerous conservation and economic benefits. In addition to CLEAR30, signups are also open for **Continuous CRP** and **Grassland CRP**.



Financial Benefits

- ♦ 30 years of annual rental payments.
- ♦ 27.5% Rental rate enhancement
- ♦ 20% Water Quality Incentive
- ♦ Practice Specific Climate-Smart Incentive
- ♦ Onsite monitoring and technical assistance throughout the contract term.
- ♦ Maintenance payments for all practices.

Eligible Land

Cropland and certain marginal pastureland that is currently enrolled in a Continuous CRP or CREP contract, dedicated to an eligible water quality practice, and expiring on September 30, 2023.

Practice Maintenance

Land enrolled in CLEAR30 will have periodic, onsite monitoring performed by USDA. Recommendations for maintenance activities will be incorporated into the Conservation Plan throughout the 30-year contract term. Participants will receive 75% maintenance incentive payments for performing required maintenance activities.

Compatible Uses

Land enrolled in CLEAR30 may be used for the following activities provided the activity is consistent with the Conservation Plan and does not degrade water quality or conflict with other purposes of the practice:

- ♦ Hunting/Fishing
- ♦ Managed timber harvest
- ♦ Periodic haying and grazing.

Sign up Period

Producers may apply for CLEAR30 from April 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023. CLEAR30 contracts will be effective October 1, 2023.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Payments Issued

General CRP

2022: \$61,300,840

2021: \$67,070,065

2020: \$87,130,429

2019: \$88,485,883

HEL CRP

2022: \$3,104,594

2021: \$2,034,297

2020: \$2,110,187

2019: \$2,148,974

Continuous CRP

2022: \$1,933,553

2021: \$1,855,623

2020: \$2,031,005

2019: \$2,231,399

Grasslands CRP

2022: \$2,449,642

2021: \$376,703

2020: \$323,417

2019: \$324,279

SAFE

2022: \$8,258,054

2021: \$7,244,583

2020: \$7,275,502

2019: \$7,285,878

CLEAR30

2022: \$10,210

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*As of May 15, 2023



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

General CRP Signup 60 concluded April 7

Grasslands CRP Signup 205 closes May 26

- Ranking factors have been updated
- \$13/acre Grassland CRP minimum rental rate

CLEAR30 Signup open from April 1 to July 31

- Eligible for certain Continuous CRP and CREP contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2022.
- Payments equal to current Continuous CRP annual payment rate, plus a 20% water quality incentive and annual rate adjustment of 27.5%



Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program

Texas - Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscrub State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Project

Fact Sheet
November 2022

Purpose

The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative restores vital habitat in order to meet high priority state wildlife conservation goals. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with several opportunities like this to achieve many conservation goals. Participation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscrub SAFE project allows landowners to restore Tamaulipan thornscrub habitat for the endangered ocelot and other wildlife species by creating and maintaining 5,000 acres of native woody shrub and grassland habitat in Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Starr and Willacy counties.

Benefits

The potential benefits of this SAFE Initiative include:

- Increase in ocelot use of established acreage
- Increase bird use of established acreage
- Increase corridors and connectivity between habitat patches
- Improve air quality and soil health by preventing wind erosion
- Reduce irrigation needs for enrolled cropland

Eligibility

CRP enrolls existing cropland into conservation cover. Land offered for enrollment must satisfy basic CRP eligibility and cropping history requirements. Landowners should check with their local FSA office to determine individual eligibility.

Practice Requirements

Contracted acres must be planted and managed to an approved mix of native grasses, wildflowers, and forbs, or woody shrubs according to NRCS practice standards for 327 - Conservation Cover, 420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting, and 612 - Shrub Establishment. Only native plant species are permitted. Maintenance and management activities are required according to program guidelines.



Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

TEXAS LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY THORNSCRUB SAFE PROJECT- NOVEMBER 2022

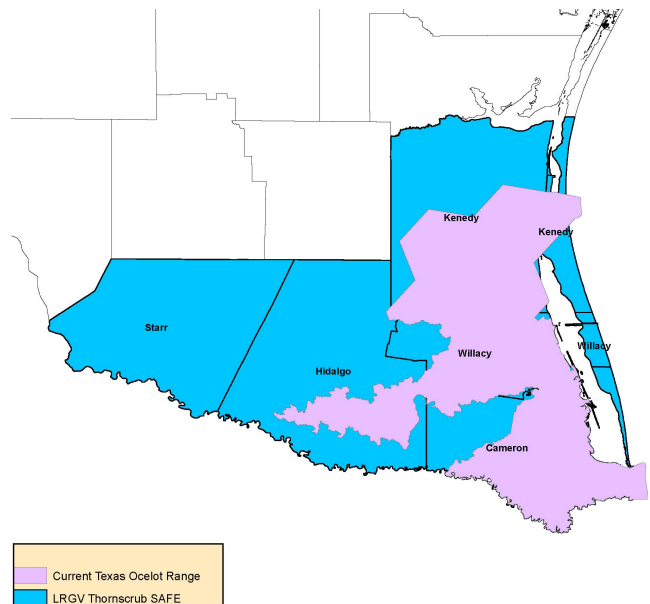
Financial Assistance

Financial assistance through this SAFE Initiative may include:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments of up to 50% Cost-Share for practice establishment
- Practices enrolled through CRP Continuous Sign-up will also receive
 - A 50% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
 - Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5% of first full year's annual rental payment
 - A Climate Smart Annual Practice Incentive of 3, 5, or 10% based on the practice cover

More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For details, contact your local FSA office. To find your local Service Center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator



Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscrew SAFE
Current Texas Ocelot Range and Project Area Map



Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program

Texas - Prairie State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Project

Fact Sheet
November 2022

Purpose

The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative restores vital habitat in order to meet high priority state wildlife conservation goals. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with several opportunities like this to achieve many conservation goals. Participation in the Texas Prairie SAFE project allows landowners to reconnect geographically and reproductively isolated populations of Lesser Prairie-Chickens, Northern Bobwhite and other grassland wildlife species by creating, restoring, and maintaining 250,000 acres of native prairie habitat patches and corridors.

Benefits

The potential benefits of this SAFE Initiative include:

- Habitat restoration for grassland wildlife
- Improve water and air quality
- Improve plant health
- Erosion and runoff prevention
- Water quality and aquifer recharge improvement

Eligibility

CRP enrolls existing cropland into conservation cover. CP-38E is a cropland practice. Eligible sub-practices include CP38E-4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat) and CP38A-33 (Upland Bird Habitat Buffer). Land offered for enrollment must satisfy basic CRP eligibility and cropping history requirements. Landowners should check with their local FSA office to determine individual eligibility.



Practice Requirements

CP33 and CP4D enrollments shall consist of existing or established herbaceous plant cover best suited to provide wildlife habitat appropriate for the ecological site. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized and shall not be included in cover mixes. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.

Expiring CRP contracts are eligible and may require enhancements that increase diversity and reduce the density of current vegetation cover.

Haying or grazing may be permitted outside of the primary nesting season (March 1 - July 1) on Prairie SAFE acres when conducted according to non-emergency haying and grazing procedures.

Grazing and haying prescriptions for emergency and non-emergency use are limited to not more than once every three years and 50% of the contract acres in a calendar year. Grazing prescriptions should consider minimum stubble heights and intensity as to allow for plant recovery and preserve habitat quality for enrolled acres.

TEXAS PRAIRIE SAFE PROJECT - NOVEMBER 2022

Financial Assistance

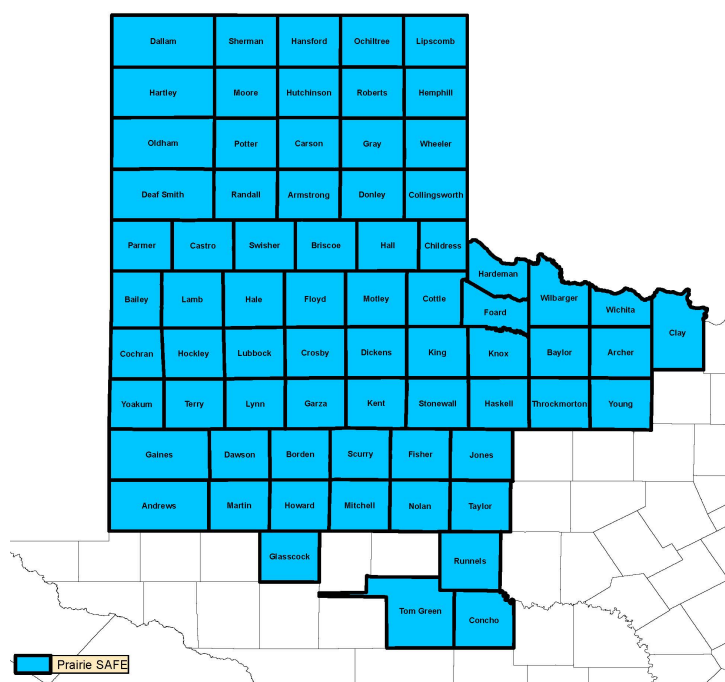
Financial assistance through this SAFE Initiative may include:

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments of up to 50% Cost-Share for practice establishment
- Practices enrolled through CRP Continuous Sign-up will also receive
 - A 50% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
 - Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) equal to 32.5% of first full year's annual rental payment
 - A Climate Smart Annual Practice Incentive of 3, 5, or 10% based on the practice cover.

More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For details, contact your local FSA office. To find your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator

Texas Prairie SAFE Project Area Map





State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Fiscal Year 2023

- **Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley Thornscrub SAFE**
 - Creating and maintaining 5,000 acres of native woody shrub and grassland habitat
- **Texas Prairie SAFE**
 - 250,000 acres of native short and mixed-grass prairie habitat patches and travel corridors



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Active Enrollment (March 2023)

CRP General

- Contracts: 9,865
- Farms: 7,561
- Acres: 1,539,467
- Annual Rent: \$54 million*

CRP Grasslands

- Contracts: 986
- Farms: 731
- Acres: 320,785
- Annual Rent: \$5.5 million*

CRP Continuous

- Contracts: 2,928
- Farms: 1,991
- Acres: 312,553
- Annual Rent: \$13 million*

SAFE

- Acres: 211,231
(CP38E Grass)

*estimated

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DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Overview

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 damaged by natural disasters and implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Program Administration

ECP is administered by FSA state and county committees and county offices. Producers should contact their local FSA county office regarding ECP enrollment periods and eligibility.

Land Eligibility

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. Eligible land includes land used for:

- Commercial farming, ranching and orchard operations;
- Growing nursery stock and Christmas tree plantations;
- Grazing for commercial livestock production; and
- Conservation structures such as, waterways, terraces, diversions and windbreaks.
- Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.

Cost-Share Payments

Cost-share payments are:

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices;
- 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; and
- Available as an advance payment of up to 25 percent of expected cost-share, for only the replacement or restoration of fencing.

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).

What to do if a Disaster Occurs

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

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about FSA disaster programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



Emergency Conservation Program

FY 2023

- ECP has been implemented in 22 counties
- Wildfires and severe storms
- Approved practices
 - EC1 – Removing Debris from Farmland
 - EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Releveling or Similar Measures
 - EC3 – Replacing or Restoring Permanent Fences
 - EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations

FY 2022

- \$7.2 million in assistance delivered in 23 counties*

*Data as of May 15, 2023



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Overview

The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.

How to Apply

EFRP enrollment is administered by FSA state and county committees and county offices. Producers should inquire with their local FSA county office regarding EFRP enrollment periods and eligibility.

How it Works

FSA county committees determine land eligibility using on-site damage inspections that assess the type and extent of damage. To be eligible for EFRP, NIPF land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees); and
- Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity.

Cost-Share Payments

Cost-share payments are:

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices; and
- Limited to \$500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster.

Eligible Forest Restoration Practices

To restore NIPF, EFRP participants may implement emergency forest restoration practices, such as:

- Debris removal, such as down or damaged trees, in order to establish a new stand or provide for natural regeneration;
- Site preparation, planting materials, and labor to replant forest stand;
- Restoration of forestland roads, fire lanes, fuel breaks, or erosion control structures;
- Fencing, tree shelters, and tree tubes to protect trees from wildlife damage; and
- Wildlife enhancement to provide cover openings and wildlife habitat.



For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about FSA disaster programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

- EFRP has been implemented in 2 counties
- Tornadoes and severe storms
- Approved practices
 - EF1 – Hardwood Forest Restoration
 - EF2 – Softwood Forest Restoration
 - EF3 – Mixed Forestry Restoration
 - EF4 – Longleaf Pine Restoration
 - EF9 – Other Emergency Forest Restoration Measures



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Overview

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover, including rangeland managed by a federal agency, or certain crops planted specifically for grazing) that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

LFP also provides payments to eligible livestock owners or contract growers that have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

The qualifying drought and qualifying grazing losses, and/or notification of prohibition to graze Federal land due to fire, must have occurred in the grazing period and crop year. For grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency, an eligible livestock producer may elect to receive assistance for losses due to drought conditions or fire conditions, if applicable, but not both.

LFP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligible Counties for Drought

An eligible livestock owner or contract grower who, as a grazed forage crop producer, owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to one monthly payment;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least four weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to four monthly payments; or
- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (not necessarily four consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.



A map of eligible counties for LFP drought can be found at fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index.

Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock are grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of forage grasses or legumes and include such species as alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep.

Within those species animals that are eligible include those that are or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland:

- During the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county; or
- When the federal agency prohibited the livestock owner or contract grower from having livestock graze the normally permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to fire.

Eligible Livestock must:

- Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or up to two production years immediately preceding the current production year if there is a systemic drought condition.
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show); and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner or contract grower.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for LFP, persons or legal entities must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership of U.S. citizens, a legal entity organized under State law, or an Indian tribe or tribal organization defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act that:

- Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire;
- Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land as of the date of the qualifying drought or fire that is either:
 - Physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county; or
 - Rangeland managed by a federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normally permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire.
- Certify that they have suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire; and
- Timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed.

**Payments**

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to payment factors of one, three, four or five times the LFP monthly payment rate (see table below for payment rates). The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost

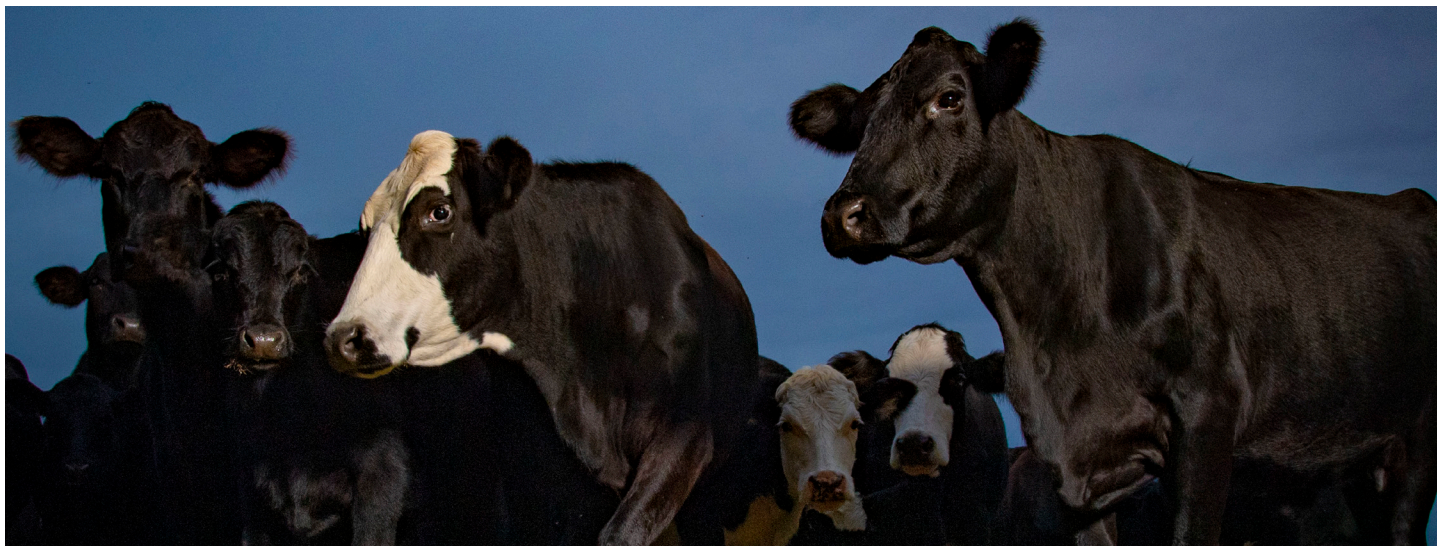
- For all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer; or
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer.

Total LFP payments to an eligible livestock owner or contract grower in a calendar year for grazing losses will not exceed five monthly payments for the same kind, type, and weight range of livestock.

In the case of an eligible livestock owner or contract grower who sold or otherwise disposed of livestock because of drought conditions in one or both of the two previous production years immediately preceding the current production year, the payment rate will equal 80 percent of the monthly payment rate.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for eligible livestock owners or contract growers for losses suffered because of a qualifying fire on federally managed rangeland

for which the producer is prohibited from grazing the normally permitted livestock. The payment begins on the first day the permitted livestock are prohibited from grazing the eligible rangeland and ending on the earlier of the last day of the federal lease of the eligible livestock producer or the day that would make the period a 180 calendar-day period. The payment rate is 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the owner or contract grower is prohibited from having livestock graze the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire, not to exceed 180 calendar days.



Payments Limitation

The Agriculture Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) established a maximum annual per person and legal entity payment limitation for LFP (without regard to any other program) of \$125,000.

Therefore, for 2019 and subsequent program years, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total in payments under LFP. The average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation relating to limits on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of AGI will apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive LFP payments.

Direct attribution provisions apply to LFP. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity. To learn more, visit the Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations fact sheet at fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations.

Enrollment

Eligible livestock producers who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

Contract growers must include a copy of the grower contract and any other supporting documents required for determining contract grower eligibility.

Supporting documents must show evidence of loss and that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased. If a loss of grazing was due to a fire that the eligible livestock producer was prohibited by the federal agency from having livestock graze the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a fire supporting documentation received from that federal agency must be provided.

FSA will use data provided by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Without all required supporting documentation and data, the application will not be able to be approved and benefits cannot be provided.

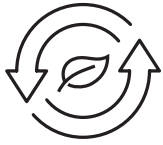
For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. To find more information about FSA disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

LIVESTOCK PAYMENT RATES							
KIND	TYPE	WEIGHT RANGE	PAYMENT RATE PER HEAD				
			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beef	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$28.07	\$29.34	\$31.89	\$31.18	\$47.29
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$21.05	\$22.01	\$23.92	\$23.38	\$35.47
		Less than 500 pounds		\$14.67	\$15.94	\$15.59	\$23.64
Dairy	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$72.98	\$76.29	\$82.91	\$81.07	\$122.95
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$21.05	\$22.01	\$23.92	\$23.38	\$35.47
		Less than 500 pounds		\$14.67	\$15.94	\$15.59	\$23.64
Beefalo	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$28.07	\$29.34	\$31.89	\$31.18	\$47.29
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$21.05	\$22.01	\$23.92	\$23.38	\$35.47
		Less than 500 pounds		\$14.67	\$15.94	\$15.59	\$23.64
Buffalo/ Bison	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$28.07	\$29.34	\$31.89	\$31.18	\$47.29
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$21.05	\$22.01	\$23.92	\$23.38	\$35.47
		Less than 500 pounds		\$14.67	\$15.94	\$15.59	\$23.64
Sheep	All		\$7.02	\$7.34	\$7.97	\$7.79	\$11.82
Goats	All		\$7.02	\$7.34	\$7.97	\$7.79	\$11.82
Deer	All		\$7.02	\$7.34	\$7.97	\$7.79	\$11.82
Equine	All		\$20.77	\$21.71	\$23.60	\$23.07	\$34.99
Elk	All			\$15.85	\$17.22	\$16.84	\$25.54
		Less than 400 pounds	\$6.18				
		400 to 799 pounds	\$11.51				
		800 pounds or more	\$15.16				
Reindeer	All		\$6.18	\$6.46	\$7.02	\$6.87	\$10.42
Alpacas	All		\$23.12	\$24.17	\$26.27	\$25.68	\$38.95
Emus	All		\$14.37	\$15.02	\$16.32	\$15.96	\$24.20
Llamas	All		\$10.25	\$10.71	\$11.64	\$11.38	\$17.26

NOTE: A grazing animal is defined as those species of livestock that, from a nutritional and physiological perspective, satisfy more than 50 percent of their net energy requirement through the consumption of growing forage grasses and legumes, regardless whether or not they are grazing or are present on grazing land or pastureland. Unweaned livestock are not considered a grazing animal and are ineligible for LFP.

The LFP monthly payment rate for losses because of a qualifying drought is calculated at 60 percent of the smaller of the monthly feed cost payment rate per head in the table above or the monthly feed cost based on the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing or pastureland acres.



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ELAP - LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE / Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

Overview

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) amended the 2014 Farm Bill which authorized the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. It covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards, disease (including cattle tick fever), water shortages and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other disaster assistance programs such as the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The 2018 Farm Bill, enacted Dec. 20, 2018, amended certain provisions related to ELAP effective with the 2019 program year.

Those amendments included:

- providing reimbursement of 90 percent of the cost of losses for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning or veteran farmer or rancher.
- removing ELAP from the combined ELAP and LFP maximum per person and legal entity payment limitation for the 2019 and subsequent program years (as discussed in this fact sheet)
- in addition to covering the cost related to gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever, ELAP will now cover the cost related to gathering livestock to inspect for cattle tick fever;
- no longer covering livestock death losses due to diseases that are caused or transmitted by a vector and are not controlled by vaccination or an acceptable management practice. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes these diseases to be covered under LIP.
- ELAP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Policy Enhancement

In response to ongoing drought conditions across the U.S., USDA expanded ELAP to help drought-stricken ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling water and feed or hauling livestock to forage or other feeding location. ELAP livestock and feed hauling assistance is retroactive for 2021 and will be available for losses in 2022 and subsequent years.



How it Works

There are six categories of livestock losses covered by ELAP, described in greater detail within this fact sheet:

- Grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands;
- Livestock feed losses caused by eligible loss condition that result in purchased or mechanically harvested feed being destroyed, additional feed purchased above normal, and additional expenses for transporting feed;
- Losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought;
- Losses resulting from above normal costs of hauling feed to livestock due to an eligible drought;
- Losses resulting from above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage or other feeding location due to an eligible drought; and
- Losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock for treatment and inspection related to cattle tick fever.

What Is Eligible?

Livestock Feed and Grazing Losses

Eligible Livestock

For livestock feed and grazing losses, livestock must be:

- Grazing animals that are weaned, 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, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer and sheep;
- Livestock that would normally have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period for the specific pasture type of grazing land or pastureland in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred;
- 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 adverse weather or loss condition; and
- Maintained for commercial use as part of the producer's farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

Eligible Producer

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 livestock or the risk of producing the livestock who:

- During the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition, owned, cash-leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase or been a contract grower of eligible livestock;
- Suffered a loss resulting from an eligible loss condition:
 - A grazing 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; and
 - 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 eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred during the normal grazing period.

- A feed loss for:
 - Eligible winter storm;
 - Flood;
 - Hurricane;
 - Lightning;
 - Tidal surge;
 - Tornado;
 - Volcanic eruption; or
 - Wildfire on non-federal land.

Drought and wildfire on federally managed land are not eligible adverse weather or loss conditions for livestock feed and grazing losses under ELAP. These conditions are covered by LFP.

Eligible Grazing Losses

Eligible grazing losses must be incurred on eligible grazing lands physically located in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred and because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition. The daily livestock payment rates per head for eligible livestock grazing losses for 2021 is \$1.58.

Eligible Feed Losses

Eligible feed losses under ELAP are losses:

- Of purchased forage or feedstuffs;
- Of mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs;
- Resulting from the additional costs incurred for transporting feed to eligible livestock because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition; and
- Resulting from the additional costs of purchasing additional feed, above normal quantities, required to maintain eligible livestock during an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, until additional livestock feed becomes available.

Eligible feed losses must not exceed 150 days of lost feed.

Eligible Transportation Losses

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing in a county suffering and eligible drought and producers must have incurred feed or livestock transportation costs on or after Jan. 1, 2021. Although producers will self-certify losses and expenses to FSA, producers are encouraged to maintain good records and retain receipts and related documentation in the event these documents are requested for review by the local FSA County Committee.

An eligible drought, meaning that any area of the county has been rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity for at least 8 consecutive weeks or D3 (extreme drought) or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity for the specific type of eligible grazing land or pastureland for the county that directly impacts water availability at any time during the normal grazing period.

Grazing Loss Payments, Excluding Wildfire on Non-Federal Land

Payments for eligible grazing losses, except grazing losses due to wildfires on non-federal land, will be calculated based on a minimum of 60 percent of the lesser of the total value of:

- The feed cost for all covered livestock owned by the eligible livestock producer based on the number of grazing days lost, not to exceed 150 days of daily feed cost for all covered livestock; or
- Grazing lost for eligible livestock based on the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer for the number of grazing days lost, not to exceed 150 days of lost grazing.

Payments for eligible livestock producers for losses suffered because of a wildfire on non-federal land will be calculated based on a minimum of 60 percent of:

- The result of dividing the number of acres of grazing land or pastureland acres affected by the wildfire by the normal carrying capacity of the specific type of eligible grazing land or pastureland, multiplied by;
- The daily value of grazing multiplied by;
- The number of days grazing was lost due to the wildfire, not to exceed 180 calendar days.

Livestock Feed Payment Calculations

Payment calculations for feed losses will be based on a minimum of 60 percent of the producer's actual cost for:

- Livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock that was physically damaged or destroyed due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition;
- The additional costs incurred for transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition; and
- The additional cost of purchasing additional livestock feed above normal to maintain the eligible livestock during an eligible adverse weather or loss condition until additional livestock feed becomes available.



FSA will calculate ELAP payments for an eligible livestock producer for livestock feed and grazing losses for no more than 150 calendar days.

Livestock and Forage Transportation Payment Calculations

USDA will reimburse eligible ranchers 60% of livestock or feed transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed for 90% of the livestock or feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

USDA uses a national cost formula to determine reimbursement costs that will not include the first 25 miles and distances exceeding 1,000 transportation miles. The calculation will also exclude the normal cost to transport livestock, hay or feed if the producer normally purchases some feed or normally transports livestock. For 2022, the initial cost formula of \$6.44 per mile will be used (before the percentage is applied).

Losses Resulting from Additional Cost of Transporting Water

Eligible Livestock

For losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting water, eligible livestock that are weaned must be:

- 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, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer and sheep;
- 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 adverse weather or loss condition;

- Livestock that are grazing eligible pastureland or grazing land during the normal grazing period for the specific pasture type of grazing land or pastureland that:
 - Are physically located in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred;
 - Had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities before the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred; and
 - Do not normally require the transport of water by the producer; and
- Maintained for commercial use as part of the producer's farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot are not eligible for livestock losses resulting from transporting water under ELAP.

Eligible Producer

For losses resulting from transporting water, producers must have, during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition, owned, cash-leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase or been a contract grower of eligible livestock.

Payments for Losses from Transporting Water

Payments for losses due to transporting water will be based on a minimum of 60 percent of the lesser of:

- The total value of the cost to transport water to eligible livestock for 150 days, based on the daily water requirements for the eligible livestock; or
- The total value of the cost to transport water to eligible livestock for the program year, based on the actual number of gallons of water the eligible producer transported to eligible livestock for the program year.

The national average price per gallon to transport water \$.07 for all methods of transport. A state or regional price may be established based on the recommendation and documentation by the FSA State Committee.

Eligible Producer

For losses resulting from transporting water, producers must have, during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition, owned, cash-leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase or been a contract grower of eligible livestock.

Eligible Adverse Weather or Loss Condition

Eligible adverse weather for losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting water to eligible livestock includes an eligible drought, meaning that any area of the county has been rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (sever drought) intensity for at least 8 consecutive weeks or D3 (extreme drought) or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity for the specific type of eligible grazing land or pasture land for the county intensity that directly impacts water availability at any time during the normal grazing period.

Eligible Losses from Transporting Water Eligible losses due to the additional costs of transporting water under ELAP are losses that:

- Are due to an eligible drought;
- Are for the additional cost of transporting water to eligible livestock, including, but not limited to, costs associated with water transport equipment fees, labor and contracted water transportation fees; and
- Do not include the cost of the water itself.

Losses Related to Treatment and Inspection for Cattle Tick Fever

Eligible Livestock

For losses resulting from the additional cost to treat and/or inspect for cattle tick fever, eligible livestock that are weaned must be:

- Adult or non-adult dairy cattle, adult or non-adult beef cattle, adult or non-adult buffalo and adult or non-adult beefalo;
- 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 adverse weather or loss condition; and
- Maintained for commercial use as part of the producer's farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot are not eligible for livestock losses resulting from the additional cost to treat for cattle tick fever under ELAP.

Eligible losses include those losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat and/or inspect for cattle tick fever. To be considered an eligible loss, acceptable records that provide the number of livestock treated and/or inspected for cattle tick fever and the number of treatments given during the program year must be on file with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Payments for Losses for Gathering Livestock to Treat and/or Inspect for Cattle Tick Fever

Payments for losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat and/or inspect for cattle tick fever will be equal to the sum of the following for each treatment:

- A minimum national payment factor of 60 percent multiplied by;
- The number of eligible livestock treated and/or inspected by APHIS for cattle tick fever, multiplied by;
- The average cost to gather livestock, per head, as established by FSA.

Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning, or Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

With respect to the national payment rates referenced above, an eligible livestock producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource or a beginning or veteran farmer or rancher will receive 90 percent of the payment rate for livestock losses under ELAP.

Payment Limitations

The 2018 Farm Bill removed ELAP from the combined \$125,000 payment limitation under ELAP and LFP. Therefore, for 2019 and subsequent program years, payment limitation does not apply to ELAP benefits. The average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of average AGI will apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an average AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive ELAP payments.

Direct attribution provisions also apply to ELAP. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity. For more information on payment limitations, visit fsa.usda.gov/limits.



How to Apply

Producers can apply to receive ELAP assistance at local FSA service centers. The ELAP application period ends Dec. 31 of each calendar year.

In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered livestock losses should submit a notice of loss to the local FSA office that maintains their farm records.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and application for payment for livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Loss	Final Date to File Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Within the program year Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	30 days after loss is first apparent	Program year in which the loss occurred.

The producer must include a copy of the grower contract if they are a contract grower and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory and evidence that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased.

FSA will use data furnished by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, without all required data, program benefits will not be approved or provided.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about ELAP, visit fsa.usda.gov/ELAP or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov.



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Livestock Indemnity Program

Overview

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including eligible adverse weather, eligible disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. In addition, LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.

LIP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). The occurrence of an eligible loss condition in and by itself - does not determine eligibility for eligible livestock losses. The livestock owner or contract grower must provide evidence acceptable to FSA that the eligible cause of loss not only occurred but directly caused loss or death.

LIP payments for owners are based on national payment rates that are 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock as determined by the USDA's Secretary of Agriculture. Rates for contract growers of poultry or swine will not exceed the rates for owners but are based on 75 percent of national average input costs for the applicable livestock.

The 2018 Farm Bill amended certain provisions related to LIP effective in 2019. Those amendments included:

- livestock death losses due to extreme cold are considered eligible losses without regard to vaccination protocol, or lack of vaccination; and
- providing for compensation for livestock death losses due to diseases that are caused or transmitted by a vector and are not controlled by vaccination or an acceptable management practice. These diseases were previously covered under ELAP.

Eligible Livestock Owners

To be eligible for LIP:

- A livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock died and/or were injured by an eligible loss condition



- An owner's livestock must have either:
 - died in excess of normal mortality as a direct result of an eligible loss condition,
 - or been injured as a direct result of an eligible loss condition and were sold at a reduced price.

Eligible livestock must:

- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day they died; and
- Not have been produced or maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Excluded livestock includes wild free-roaming animals, pets or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, roping or for show.

The following types of livestock may be eligible for LIP:

CATTLE	POULTRY	SWINE	OTHER
Adult Beef Bulls	Chickens, Broilers, Pullets (regular size) (4.26 to 6.25 pounds)	Suckling/Nursery Pigs (less than 50 pounds)	Alpacas
Adult Beef Cows			Deer
Adult Buffalo/Bison Bulls	Chickens, Chicks Chickens, Layers	Swine, Lightweight Barrows, Gilts (50 to 150 pounds)	Elk
Adult Beefalo Bulls	Chickens, Pullets/Cornish Hens (small size) (Less than 4.26 pounds)		Emus
Adult Beefalo Cows	Roasters (6.26 to 7.75 pounds)	Swine, Sows, Boars,	Equine
Adult Buffalo/Bison Cows		Barrows, Gilts (151 to 450 pounds)	Goats, Bucks Goats, Nannies
Adult Dairy Bulls	Super Roasters/Parts (7.76 pounds or more)		Goats, Slaughter Goats/Kids
Adult Dairy Cows Non-Adult Beef Cattle	Ducks, Ducklings	Swine, Sows, Boars (over 450 pounds)	Llamas
Non-Adult Buffalo/Bison	Ducks, Ducks		Reindeer
Non-Adult Beefalo	Geese, Goslings		Caribou
Non-Adult Dairy Cattle	Geese, Goose		Sheep, Rams
	Turkeys, Poults		Sheep, Ewes
	Turkeys, Toms, Fryers, Roasters		Sheep, Lambs

Eligible Livestock Contract Growers (Poultry and Swine)

Poultry and swine are the only kinds of livestock for which contract growers can be eligible under LIP.

To be eligible for LIP, in addition to meeting all other eligibility requirements for loss, a poultry or swine contract grower must have had the following:

- Possession and control of the eligible livestock; and
- A written agreement with the eligible livestock owner setting the specific terms, conditions and obligations of the parties involved regarding the production of livestock.

Contract growers are not eligible for losses under LIP for injured livestock that were sold at a reduced price due to an eligible loss condition.

Eligible Loss Conditions

An eligible loss condition includes any of the following that occur in the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Eligible adverse weather event;
- Eligible disease; and
- Eligible attack.

Eligible adverse weather event means extreme or abnormal damaging weather that is not expected to occur during the loss period for which it occurred, which directly results in eligible livestock losses. An eligible adverse weather event must occur in the calendar year for which benefits are requested. Eligible adverse weather events include, but are not limited to, as determined by the FSA Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs or designee, earthquake; hail; lightning; tornado; tropical storm; typhoon; vog, if directly related to a volcanic eruption; winter storm, if the winter storm lasts for three consecutive days and is accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and extremely cold temperatures; hurricanes; floods; blizzards; wildfires; extreme heat; extreme cold; and straight-line winds. Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and results in the death of eligible livestock.

Eligible disease means a disease that is exacerbated by an eligible adverse weather event that directly results in eligible livestock losses, including, but not limited to, anthrax, cyanobacteria, (beginning in 2015 calendar year), larkspur poisoning (beginning in 2015 calendar year) and Mycoplasma Bovis in Bison (beginning in 2021). In addition, eligible disease means a disease that is caused and/or transmitted by vectors and vaccination or acceptable management practices are not available, whether or not they were or were not implemented, that directly result in death of eligible livestock in excess of normal mortality, including but not limited to Blue Tongue, EHD and CWV.

Eligible attack means an attack by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators, that directly results in either injured livestock sold at a reduced price or death of eligible livestock, in excess of normal mortality.

Payments

Livestock Death Losses

LIP payments for livestock death losses, adjusted for normal mortality, are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for the applicable livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in that category times the producer's share. Current year national payment rates are found at the end of this fact sheet.

The LIP national payment rate for eligible livestock owners is based on 75 percent of the average fair market value of the livestock, as provided in Table 1.

The LIP national payment rate for eligible livestock contract growers is based on 75 percent of the average income loss sustained by the contract grower with respect to the dead livestock, as provided in Table 2.

A contract grower's LIP payment will be reduced by the amount of monetary compensation received from the owner for the loss of income suffered from the death of livestock under contract.

Injured Livestock

For eligible livestock owners, LIP payments for injured livestock that are sold at a reduced price due to an eligible adverse weather event or eligible attack are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for the applicable livestock category minus the amount that the livestock owner received for the eligible livestock in that category times the livestock owner's share. If injured eligible livestock are sold for more than the national payment rate for the applicable livestock category, there is no payment.

Payment Limitations and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

For the 2017 and subsequent program years, there is no per person or legal entity program year payment limitation.

In evaluating average adjusted gross income, an individual or entity is ineligible for payment under LIP if the average AGI of the individual or entity exceeds \$900,000.

Direct attribution provisions apply to LIP. Under direct attribution, AGI provisions apply to the person or legal entity applying for payment as well as to those persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

For more information on payment limitations, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/limits.

Applying for LIP

Owners or contract growers may apply to receive LIP benefits at local FSA offices.

Owners or contract growers who suffer livestock losses due to an eligible cause of loss must submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to the local FSA office that serves the physical location county where the livestock losses occurred. All of the owner's or contract grower's interest in inventory of eligible livestock in that county for the calendar year must be accounted for and summarized when determining eligibility.

An owner or contract grower must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is first apparent as well as file an application for payment within 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

For 2022 LIP losses, livestock owners and contract growers may apply for 2022 LIP benefits in the physical location county where the loss occurred.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and application for payment:

DATE OF LIVESTOCK DEATH AND/OR INJURY	FINAL DATE TO FILE NOTICE OF LOSS	FINAL DATE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT
Calendar year 2019 and all subsequent years	by 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent to the participant.	60 days after the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred

Applications from eligible livestock owners for losses due to livestock injured due to an eligible loss condition will be processed and acted on as specified in this fact sheet.

Contract growers of poultry or swine must submit a copy of the grower contract and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility. Similar to requirements for owners, supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory and location of the livestock at the time of death.



Livestock Loss Documentation

Livestock owners and contract growers must record all pertinent information (including the number and kind) of all livestock and those adversely impacted by an eligible loss condition resulting in either death losses or injury and sales of injured livestock at reduced price.

Owners who sold injured livestock for a reduced price because the livestock were injured due to an eligible adverse weather event or eligible attack, must provide verifiable evidence of the reduced sale of the livestock. The injured livestock must be sold to an independent third party (such as sale barn, slaughter facility, or rendering facility).

Documents that may provide verifiable evidence of livestock sold at a reduced price include but are not limited to:

- sales receipts from a livestock auction, sale barn or
- other similar livestock sale facilities
- rendering facility receipts
- processing plant receipts

The documentation for injured livestock sales must have the price for which the animal was sold as well as information on livestock kind, type, and weight sold.

FSA will use information furnished by the applicant to determine eligibility. Furnishing the required information is voluntary; however, without all required information, program benefits will not be approved or provided.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. To find more information about FSA disaster assistance programs, visit [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

TABLE 1: LIP PAYMENT RATES FOR ELIGIBLE LIVESTOCK OWNERS
 (rates have been reduced by the required 75%)

KIND	TYPE	WEIGHT RANGE	2022 PAYMENT RATE PER HEAD
Alpacas			\$303.99
Beef	Adult	Bull	\$1,077.94
		Cow	\$829.18
	Non-Adult	Less than 250 pounds	\$474.38*
		250 to 399 pounds	\$474.38
		400 to 799 pounds	\$661.32
		800 pounds or more	\$1,102.20
Beefalo	Adult	Bull	\$1,346.40
		Cow	\$1,075.81
	Non-Adult	Less than 250 pounds	\$559.20*
		250 to 399 pounds	\$559.20
		400 to 799 pounds	\$871.54
		800 pounds or more	\$1,304.01
Buffalo/Bison	Adult	Bull	\$1,793.84
		Cow	\$1,486.86
	Non-Adult	Less than 250 pounds	\$599.15*
		250 to 399 pounds	\$599.15*
		400 to 799 pounds	\$1,221.91
		800 pounds or more	\$1,640.35
Caribou	All		\$410.50
Chickens	Broilers/ Pullets (Regular Size)	4.26 to 6.25 pounds	\$2.93
	Chicks		\$0.27
	Layers		\$4.29
	Pullets/ Cornish Hens (Small size)	Less than 4.26 pounds	\$1.97
	Roasters	6.26 to 7.75 pounds	\$3.73
	Super Roasters/Parts	7.76 pounds or more	\$4.90
Dairy	Adult	Bull	\$1,107.99
		Cow	\$1,021.88
	Non-Adult	Less than 250 pounds	\$255.47*
		250 to 399 pounds	\$255.47
		400 to 799 pounds	\$510.94
		800 pounds or more	\$834.53

**updated payment rates for 2022*

TABLE 1: LIP PAYMENT RATES FOR ELIGIBLE LIVESTOCK OWNERS
(rates have been reduced by the required 75%)

KIND	TYPE	WEIGHT RANGE	2022 PAYMENT RATE PER HEAD
Deer	All		\$410.50
Ducks	Ducklings		\$0.67
	Ducks		\$4.20
Elk			\$569.81
Emus			\$163.74
Equine			\$695.91
Geese	Goose		\$31.67
	Gosling		\$6.65
Goats	Bucks		\$214.31
	Nannies		\$198.33
	Slaughter Goats/Kids		\$114.70
Llamas			\$245.72
Ostriches			\$1,042.82
Reindeer			\$410.50
Sheep	Ewes		\$215.51
	Lambs		\$227.77
	Rams		\$549.01
Swine	Suckling Nursery Pigs	Less than 50 pounds	\$56.42
	Lightweight Barrows, Gilts	50 to 150 pounds	\$96.23
	Sows, Boars, Barrows, Gilts	151 to 450 pounds	\$107.99
	Boars, Sows	450 pounds or more	\$264.08
Turkeys	Poults		\$2.85
	Toms, Fryers, Roasters		\$21.72

TABLE 2: LIP PAYMENT RATES FOR ELIGIBLE LIVESTOCK CONTRACT GROWERS
(rates have been reduced by the required 75%)

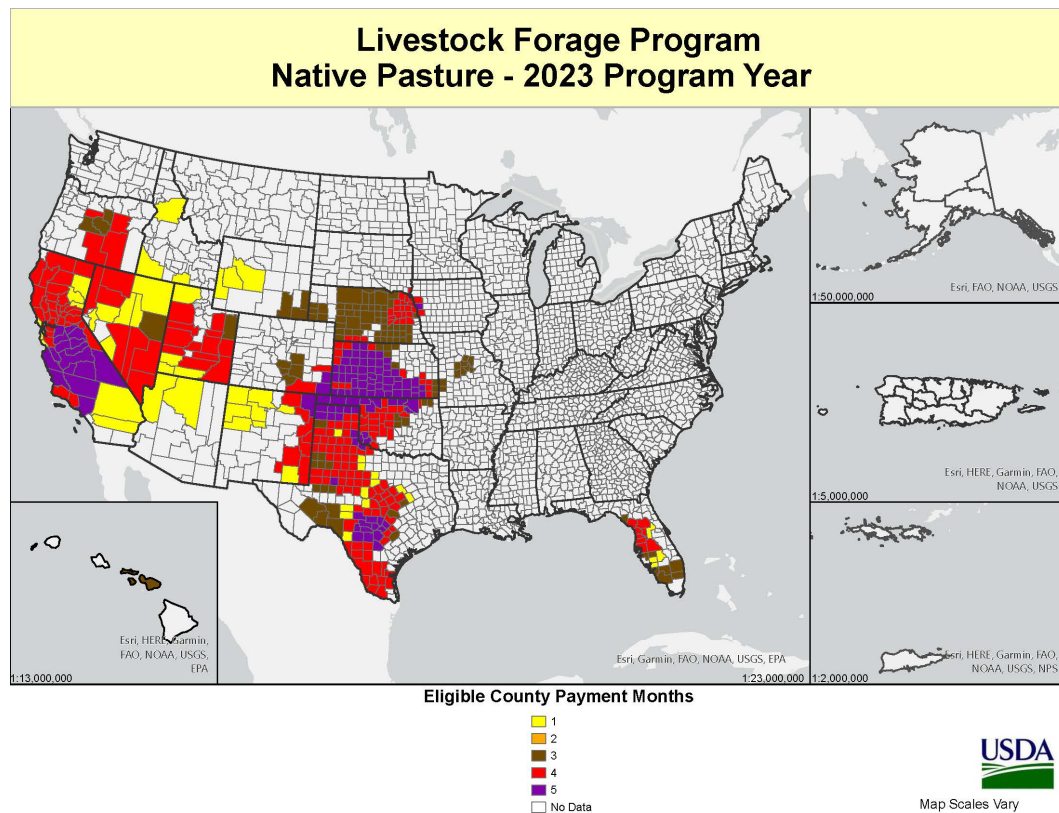
KIND	TYPE	WEIGHT RANGE	2022 PAYMENT RATE PER HEAD
Chickens	Broilers, Pullets (regular size)	4.26 to 6.25 pounds	\$0.32
	Chicks		\$0.22
	Layers		\$0.26
	Pullets, Cornish Hens (small size)	Less than 4.26 pounds	\$0.22
	Roasters	6.26 to 7.75 pounds	\$0.41
	Super Roasters/Parts	7.76 pounds or more	\$0.54
Ducks	Ducks		\$0.46
	Ducklings		\$0.46
Geese			\$3.48
Swine	Suckling Nursery Pigs	Less than 50 pounds	\$6.41
	Lightweight Barrows, Gilts	50 to 150 pounds	\$14.45
	Sows, Boars, Barrows, Gilts	151 to 450 pounds	\$16.22
	Boars, Sows	451 pounds or more	\$108.52
Turkeys	Poults		\$0.31
	Toms, Fryers, Roasters		\$2.39



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Livestock Forage Program

- More than 140 Texas counties currently eligible for assistance
- Deadline to apply for eligible 2023 losses is Jan. 30, 2024
- fsa.usda.gov/tx





Livestock Disaster Assistance

2022 Assistance

- ELAP: \$30 million
- LFP: \$294 million; 245 eligible counties
- LIP: \$696,000

*Data as of May 15, 2023

Emergency Relief Program (ERP)

Disaster Recovery Assistance for Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers



Background

On September 30, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-43), which includes \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms, and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has also made payments to ranchers impacted by drought and wildfire through the first phase of the **Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)**. ERP is another relief component of the Act.

Overview

ERP covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

For impacted producers, FSA will be administering emergency relief to row crop and specialty crop producers through the following two-phased process:

- Phase 1 will leverage existing **Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** data as the basis for calculating initial payments.
- Phase 2 will be intended to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs.

This two-phased approach enables USDA to streamline the application process to reduce the burden on producers, proactively include underserved producers who have been left out of past relief efforts and encourage participation in existing risk management tools that can help producers handle future extreme weather events.

Eligibility – Phase 1

Eligible crops include all crops for which federal crop insurance or NAP coverage was available and a crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment was received, except for crops intended for grazing and crops intended for forage or seed that were grazed. Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including apolar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions.

For ERP eligibility, “related conditions” are damaging weather and adverse natural occurrences that occurred concurrently with and as a direct result of a specified qualifying disaster event. They include:

- Excessive wind that occurred as a direct result of a derecho;
- Silt and debris that occurred as a direct result of flooding;
- Excessive wind, storm surges, tornados, tropical storms, and tropical depressions that occurred as a direct result of a hurricane; and
- Excessive wind and blizzards that occurred as a direct result of a winter storm.

For drought, ERP assistance is available if any area within the county in which the loss occurred was rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a drought intensity of:

- D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks; or
- D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity.

Lists of 2020 and 2021 drought counties eligible for ERP are available on the **emergency relief website**.

For More Info

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, the **Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool**, **Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet**, and **Farm Loan Discovery Tool**.

For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local **USDA Service Center**. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their **crop insurance agent**.



How to Apply – Phase 1

To simplify the delivery of ERP Phase 1 benefits; FSA will send pre-filled application forms to producers whose crop insurance and NAP data is already on file because they received a crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment. This form includes eligibility requirements, outlines the application process, and provides ERP payment information. Producers will receive a separate application form for each program year. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP Phase 1 payment. Producers will need to return completed and signed ERP Phase 1 applications to their local FSA county office.

Producers must also have the following forms on file with FSA within a subsequently announced deadline as determined by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable)
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm should contact their **local FSA county office**.

In addition to the forms listed above, certain producers will also need to submit the following forms to qualify for an increased payment limitation or payment rate.

- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs.
- Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, for the applicable program year.

How Payments are Calculated – Phase 1

ERP Phase 1 payments for crops covered by crop insurance will be prorated by 75 percent to ensure that total ERP payments, including payments under ERP Phase 2, do not exceed the available funding. ERP Phase 1 payments for NAP-covered crops will not be prorated due to the significantly smaller NAP portfolio that by its nature only covers smaller acreages and specialty crops that are not covered by crop insurance.

RMA and FSA will calculate ERP Phase 1 payments based on the data on file with the agencies at the time of



calculation. The ERP Phase 1 payment calculation for a crop and unit will depend on the type and level of coverage obtained by the producer. RMA and FSA will calculate each producer's loss consistent with the loss procedures for the type of coverage purchased but using the ERP factor in place of the coverage level. This calculated amount would then be adjusted by subtracting out the net crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment, which is equal to the producer's gross crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment already received for those losses minus service fees and premiums.

ERP Factor Tables

ERP factor tables can be found below and on the

Crop Insurance Level	ERP Factor (Percent)
Catastrophic coverage	75
More than catastrophic coverage but less than 55 percent	80
At least 55 percent but less than 60 percent	82.5
At least 60 percent but less than 65 percent	85
At least 65 percent but less than 70 percent	87.5
At least 70 percent but less than 75 percent	90
At least 75 percent but less than 80 percent	92.5
At least 80 percent	95

NAP Coverage Level	ERP Factor (Percent)
Catastrophic coverage	75
50 percent	80
55 percent	85
60 percent	90
65 percent	95

emergency relief website:

Because the amount of loss due to a qualifying disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021 cannot be separated from the amount of loss caused by other eligible causes of loss as defined by the applicable crop insurance or NAP policy, the ERP Phase 1 payment will be calculated based on the producer's loss due to all eligible causes of loss.

Historically Underserved Producers

The ERP payment percentage for historically underserved producers, including beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers will be increased by 15% of the calculated payment.

To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have a **CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification**, form on file with FSA for the applicable program year.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income

The payment limitation for ERP Phase 1 is determined by the person's or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income (AGI). Average adjusted gross farm income is the average of the person or legal entity's gross income derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations for three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year.

A person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments for specialty crops and \$125,000 in payment for all other crops under ERP (for Phase 1 and Phase 2 combined) for a program year if their average adjusted gross farm income is less than 75 percent of their average AGI the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete tax year.

If at least 75 percent of the person or legal entity's average AGI is farm income (income derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities) the person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, up to:

- \$900,000 for each program year for specialty crops; and
- \$250,000 for each program year for all other crops.

The sale of equipment used to conduct farm, ranch or forestry operations and the provision of production inputs and services to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and farm operations is included in the average adjusted gross farm income, if the average adjusted gross farm income is at least 66.66 percent of the average AGI of the person or legal entity.

The relevant tax years for establishing a producer's AGI and percentage of farm income are:

- 2016, 2017, and 2018 for program year 2020;
- 2017, 2018, and 2019 for program year 2021; and
- 2018, 2019, and 2020 for program year 2022.

For legal entities not required to file a federal income tax return, or for persons and entities with no taxable income in one or more tax years, the average will be the adjusted gross farm income, including losses, averaged for the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year.

A new legal entity will have adjusted gross farm income averaged only for the years of the base period for which it was in business. A new legal entity will not be considered "new" to the extent it takes over an existing operation and has any elements of common ownership interest and land with the preceding person or legal entity. If such commonality exists, then the income of the previous person or legal entity will be averaged with that of the new legal entity for the base period.

For a person filing a joint tax return, the certification of average adjusted farm income will be reported as if the person had filed a separate federal tax return and the calculation is consistent with the information supporting the filed joint return.

To request the increased payment limitation, participants must file form FSA-510 certifying their average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75% of their average AGI, accompanied by a certification from a certified public accountant (CPA) or attorney that the participant meets the requirements. For more information, contact your local **FSA service center**.



Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 1

ERP covers eligible losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to an eligible natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

ERP Phase 1 provided more than \$913 million to Texas producers.

- Cotton: \$511.10 million
- Annual forage: \$117.12 million
- Wheat: \$62.14 million
- Corn: \$62.07 million
- Grain sorghum: \$41.35 million

More than 38,000 applications processed in Texas



REVENUE LOSS ASSISTANCE

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2

Overview

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

For impacted producers, FSA is administering emergency relief to other crop, high value and specialty crop producers through the following two-phased process:

- Phase 1 leveraged existing **Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** data as the basis for calculating initial payments.
- Phase 2 intends to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs.

This two-phased approach enables USDA to streamline the application process to reduce the burden on producers, proactively include underserved producers who have been left out of past relief efforts and encourage participation in existing risk management tools that can help producers handle future extreme weather events.

Eligibility – Phase 2

Phase 2 is a tax year based certification program that provides assistance for producers that suffered a loss in revenue due to necessary expenses associated with losses of eligible crops (excluding crops intended for grazing), due in whole or in part, to a qualifying disaster event that occurred in the 2020 or 2021 calendar year. Must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, which means “lawful alien,” a partnership consisting solely of U.S. citizens or resident aliens, a corporation, limited liability company, or other organizational structure organized under State law consisting solely of U.S. citizens or resident aliens, Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, per section 4(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions.

For ERP eligibility, “related conditions” are damaging weather and adverse natural occurrences that occurred concurrently with and as a direct result of a specified qualifying disaster event.



They include:

- Excessive wind that occurred as a direct result of a derecho;
- Silt and debris that occurred as a direct result of flooding;
- Excessive wind, storm surges, tornadoes, tropical storms, and tropical depressions that occurred as a direct result of a hurricane; and
- Excessive wind and blizzards that occurred as a direct result of a winter storm.

For drought, ERP assistance is available if any area within the county in which the loss occurred was rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a drought intensity of:

- D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks;
- D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity.

Lists of 2020 and 2021 drought counties eligible for ERP are available on the emergency relief website.

In general, payments for ERP Phase 2 are based on the difference in allowable gross revenue between the selected representative benchmark year(s) and the disaster year(s).

ERP Phase 2 program utilizes:

- Benchmark years: 2018, 2019
- Disaster years: 2020, 2021

Important Information Needed for the Application

Some simple prep-work will aid in the application process, including locating the supportive documentation that was used in creating the IRS Schedule F, as well as a copy of the FSA-1099G for the selected benchmark and disaster years. In addition, applicants should review the following definitions, and will certify these entries on the FSA-521:

Allowable gross revenue: determined using the table found on pages 4–5 of this fact sheet for the selected benchmark and disaster year(s) listed on the FSA-521, ERP Phase 2 Application

Benchmark year revenue: best represents a typical year of revenue for the operation, associated to the selected disaster year

****Adjusted Benchmark year revenue:** used when:

- Producer did not have any revenue in 2018 or 2019
- Producer did not have a full benchmark revenue year in 2018 or 2019
- The 2018 or 2019 benchmark year revenue was not representative due to a physical expansion or reduction in the operation capacity for the disaster year

Disaster year revenue: actual revenue from the year(s) the producer suffered an eligible loss.

Representative tax year: The tax year (2020, 2021 and 2022), IRS Schedule F associated with the selected disaster year revenue. The producer identifies:

- The 2020 or 2021 tax year used as the representative revenue year for the 2020 disaster year
- The 2021 or 2022 tax year used as the representative revenue year for the 2021 disaster year

Producers With Eligible Revenue Losses in Both Disaster Years:

- Both disaster years shall be selected on the same application
- The same benchmark year may be used for both disaster years
- Participants cannot use the same representative tax year for more than one disaster year
- Disaster year revenue must consist of consecutive years



Example: If a producer chooses the 2021 tax year as the representative revenue year for disaster year 2020, they must choose tax year 2022 for disaster year 2021.

Since the producer used his IRS Schedule F for 2021 as the representative tax year for the actual 2020 disaster year revenue, the years must be consecutive and can only be paired with one disaster year. Therefore, he must use 2022 as the representative tax year for the 2021 disaster year revenue.

Underserved Producers

Underserved producers, including beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, will receive a higher ERP payment, at a percentage rate that will be determined at a later date.

To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have a CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, form on file with FSA for the applicable program year.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income

The payment limitation for ERP is determined by the person's or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income (income from activities related to farming, ranching, or forestry). A person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments for specialty crops and \$125,000 in payment for all other crops under ERP (for Phase 1 and Phase 2 combined) for a program year if their average adjusted gross (AGI) farm income is less than 75 percent of their average AGI the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete tax year.

The relevant tax years for establishing a producer's AGI and percentage derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities are:

- 2016, 2017, and 2018 for program year 2020;
- 2017, 2018, and 2019 for program year 2021; and
- 2018, 2019, and 2020 for program year 2022

Independent payment limitations for non-specialty/other crops and specialty/high value crops for each program year will remain, however only two program years, 2020 and 2021 will be applicable for ERP Phase 2.

Note: This is a change from ERP Phase 1. Phase 1 had separate payment limitations for each crop year 2020, 2021, and 2022.

During ERP Phase 2, payments received under ERP (Phase 1 and 2), will be applied by program year as follows:

Program year 2020 = 2020 ERP Phase 1, 2020 ERP Phase 2, Combined

Program year 2021 = 2021 ERP Phase 1, 2021 ERP Phase 2, Combined

Exception to Payment Limitation

If at least 75% of the person or legal entity's average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities and the participant provides the required certification and documentation, as discussed below, the person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, up to:

- \$900,000 for each program year for high value/specialty crops; and
- \$250,000 for each program year for all other crops

The sale of equipment used to conduct farm, ranch or forestry operations and the provision of production inputs and services to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and farm operations is included in the average adjusted gross farm income, if the average adjusted gross farm income is at least 66.66 percent of the average AGI of the person or legal entity. For legal entities not required to file a federal income tax return, or for persons and entities with no taxable income in one or more tax years, the average will be the adjusted gross farm income, including losses, averaged for the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year.

A new legal entity will have adjusted gross farm income averaged only for the years of the base period for which it was in business.

A new legal entity will not be considered "new" to the extent it takes over an existing operation and has any elements of common ownership interest and land with the preceding person or legal entity. If such commonality exists, then the

income of the previous person or legal entity will be averaged with that of the new legal entity for the base period.

For a person filing a joint tax return, the certification of average adjusted farm income will be reported as if the person had filed a separate federal tax return and the calculation is consistent with the information supporting the filed joint return.

To request the increased payment limitation, participants must file form FSA-510 complete with participant's certification their average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75% of their average AGI and a certification from a Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Attorney that the participant meets the requirements. To learn more, visit the Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations website.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers who receive ERP payments, are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, for the next two available crop years, as determined by the Secretary. Participants must obtain crop insurance or NAP, as may be applicable:

- At a coverage level equal to or greater than 60% for insurable crops; or
- At the catastrophic level or higher for NAP crops

Coverage requirements will be determined from the date a producer receives an ERP payment and may vary depending on the timing and availability of crop insurance or NAP for a producer's particular crops. The final crop year to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage to meet the second year of coverage for this requirement is the 2026 crop year.

For crops where no insurance policy is available, and ERP recipients are ineligible for NAP payments, due to exceeding the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations, they must meet this requirement by either:

- Obtaining NAP coverage and paying the applicable NAP service fee as required above, regardless of ineligibility for NAP payment, or
- Purchasing Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) crop insurance coverage, if eligible

If the crop is not eligible for NAP, then producers are required to purchase Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) crop insurance at a coverage level of at least 60%.

How to Determine Allowable Gross Revenue

Table 1 provides guidance for:

- Determining allowable gross revenue source
- What to include/exclude when determining allowable gross revenue

PROGRAM	ERP PHASE 2	
SOURCE	ALLOWABLE REVENUE	EXCLUDE GROSS REVENUE
SCHEDULE F LINE 1C "Sales of purchased livestock and other resale items," or information that could be reported on Scheduled F	Sales of eligible crops purchased for resale that had a change in characteristic due to the time held, such as: • A plant purchased at a size of 2 inches and sold as an 18-inch plant after 4 months	Sales of livestock
SCHEDULE F LINE 2 Sales of livestock, produce, grains, and other products you raised or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	Sales of eligible crops grown in the United States and its Territories by the applicant Sales of eligible crops grown by the applicant resulting from value added through post-production activities that could have been reported on IRS Schedule F For example: • Strawberries into jam Sales of aquatic species that are grown: • As food for human or livestock consumption, • For industrial or biomass uses • As fish raised as feed for fish that are consumed by humans • As ornamental fish propagated and reared in an aquatic medium	Sales of animals and their by-products: • Animals for consumption by the owner, lessee, or contract grower • Eggs • Milk • Mink including pelts • Revenue from animals for show, sport, or recreational purposes • Wild free-roaming animals • Revenue from raised breeding livestock (Schedule 4797 Part 1, Column (d) or (g) or other information that could be reported on a Schedule F Sales of agricultural commodities resulting from value added through post-production activities if reported on Schedule C Commodities not grown in the U.S. and its territories.
SCHEDULE F LINE 3A "Cooperative distributions," Form 1099-PATR, or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	The taxable amount of cooperative distributions directly related to the sale of eligible crops produced by the applicant such as: • Per-unit allocations paid to patrons for gross grain sales	Distributions that are not directly related to the sale of eligible crops that are not produced by the applicant
SCHEDULE F LINE 4A "Agricultural program payments", Form 1099-G, or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	• Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program • Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) • Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Program • Market Loan Gains (MLG)—repayment of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan less than the original amount • Market Facilitation Program (MFP) • Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP) • For the disaster year only—Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 1 payments issued to another person or entity for the applicant's share of an eligible crop, regardless of the tax year in which the payment would be reported to the IRS	Pandemic Assistance payments including, but not limited to: • Coronavirus Foods Assistance Program 1 (CFAP 1) • CFAP 2 • Cost-share assistance • Loss of buildings • Livestock portion • Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) • Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program (SMHPP) Other programs: • Conservation Program Payments • Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program • Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL)
SCHEDULE F LINE 5A - 5C "Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans reported under election," Form 1099-A, or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	• CCC loans reported under election if elected to be treated as income and reported to IRS when all or part of the production is used as collateral to secure the loan • Forfeited CCC loans	

PROGRAM	ERP PHASE 2	
SOURCE	ALLOWABLE REVENUE	EXCLUDE GROSS REVENUE
SCHEDULE F LINE 6 "Crop insurance proceeds and federal crop disaster payments" or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	• Crop insurance proceeds <i>less administrative fees and premiums</i> • Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments <i>less administrative fees and premiums</i>. • Benchmark Year Only - 2017 Wildfire and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP), 2018 & 2019 Wildfire and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP+), and Quality Loss Adjustment Program (QLA) • On-Farm Storage Loss Program (OFSLP) • Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)—payments specific to aquaculture • Payments through grant agreements with FSA for losses of eligible crops • Grants from the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and state program funds for the direct loss of eligible crops or the loss of revenue for eligible crops	• ELAP—payments specific to livestock and honeybees • Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) • Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 1 Payments • Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) • Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) • Milk Loss Program • Disaster Year Only - Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program • Tree Assistance Program (TAP) • Disaster Year Only - Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP/WHIP+)
SCHEDULE F LINE 7 "Custom hire (machine work) income," or information that could be reported on a Schedule F		Custom hire income
SCHEDULE F LINE 8 "Other income, including federal and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or refund," or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	Other revenue directly related to the production of eligible crops that the IRS requires the applicant to report such as but not limited to: • Commodity specific income received from state or local governments	• Federal and State gas/fuel tax credits • Income from by-passed (unharvested) acres • Income from a pass-through entity such as an S Corporation or Limited Liability Company (LLC) • Certificate Exchanges • Net gain from hedging or speculation • Wages, salaries, and tips • Cash rent • Rental of equipment or supplies • Revenue earned as a contract producer

Note: An applicant is not required to have filed a Schedule F to determine allowable gross revenue. If an applicant did not file a Schedule F, the applicant will use the applicable federal tax form filed to determine allowable gross revenue in the same manner as if a Schedule F was filed.

For More Information

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#).

For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.



Emergency Relief Program Phase 2

- ERP Phase Two builds on ERP Phase One
- Producers must have suffered a loss in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event.
- ERP Phase Two payments are expected to be based on the difference in certain farm revenue between a typical year of revenue (benchmark revenue) the producer and the disaster year.
- Signup closes on June 2, 2023



REVENUE LOSS ASSISTANCE

Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)

Overview

USDA is providing critical support to producers impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak through the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP). PARP provides direct financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who suffered at least a 15% loss in gross revenue in calendar year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Payments to eligible producers will be based upon a comparison of the producer's gross revenue from 2020 compared to either 2018 or 2019, as elected by the producer.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for PARP from **Jan. 23, 2023** to **June 2, 2023**.

PARP Benchmark Years

To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15% loss in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to:

- The 2018 or 2019 calendar year, as elected by the producer, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 calendar years, or
- the producers' expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.

Who is Eligible

To be eligible for payments, persons or legal entities must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other organizational structure organized under State law, Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a foreign person or foreign entity who meets certain eligibility requirements;
- Be an eligible producer who was entitled to a share in the agriculture commodity or would have shared had the agriculture commodity been produced and marketed;
- Have been in the business of farming to produce an agricultural commodity during any part of calendar year 2020;
- Have suffered a 15 percent or more gross revenue loss in 2020 compared to either 2018 or 2019;
- Comply with the provisions of the "Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation" regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
- Not have a controlled substance violation;



- Submit a complete PARP application form (FSA-1122) and provide all required documentation as specified in the documents section below.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018 or have an adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000 for tax year 2020 if exceeding average AGI. With respect to joint ventures and general partnerships, this AGI provision will be applied to members of the joint venture and general partnership.

Eligible Commodities

An agricultural commodity means a crop, aquaculture, livestock, livestock byproduct, or other animal or animal byproduct that is produced as part of a farming operation and is intended to be commercially marketed. It includes only commodities produced in the United States, and commodities produced outside the United States by a producer located in the United States and marketed inside the United States.

It excludes:

- Wild free-roaming animals;
- Horses and other animals used or intended to be used for racing or wagering;
- Aquatic species that do not meet the definition of aquaculture;
- Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant that does not meet the definition of hemp; and
- Timber.

How to Apply

Eligible producers can apply by completing the FSA-1122, Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) Application, and submitting it to any FSA county office. A complete application includes all of the following:

- **FSA-1122, Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) Application**
 - Applicants must complete and sign the PARP application and submit it to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide. The applicant must certify to the gross revenue for 2018 or 2019 and 2020 on the FSA-1122.
- **AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet**
 - This form will be filled out for all individuals and legal entities (including entity members) who have not previously provided their personal information to USDA that positively identifies the customer.
- **CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan**
 - Individual and legal entities will fill out the CCC-902 to facilitate the administration of the payment limitation and eligibility requirements, including providing members' names and taxpayer identification numbers.
- **CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information**
 - This form is required for the 2020 program year for the person or legal entity, including the legal entity's members, partners, shareholders, heirs or beneficiaries, if not already on file.
- **FSA-1123, Certification of 2020 AGI, if applicable**
 - This form may be used by persons or legal entities that exceed the average AGI \$900,000 threshold. Persons or legal entities may otherwise meet AGI requirements if their 2020 AGI is \$900,000 or less.
- **AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification**
 - All applicants must complete the AD-1026. If the applicant does not have any farming interests, this can be certified in box 5A. If the applicant does have a farming interest, the form must be completed in its entirety.



- **Other Documentation**

- If requested by USDA, the applicant must provide documentation to verify eligibility and the information included on the application, such as evidence that supports the gross revenue the applicant certified to, such as receipts, tax returns, and other documentation that is determined acceptable by USDA as valid evidence.

Where to File Your Application

FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with you to file your applications. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. Please call your FSA office prior to sending applications electronically for instructions and assistance. The PARP application and associated forms are available online at farmers.gov/parp.

Allowable Gross Revenue

Allowable gross revenue includes all revenue a producer received on a "cash basis" during the applicable calendar year and reported to IRS on Schedule F or some other Federal tax form. Allowable gross revenue does NOT include costs or expenses associated with revenue generated by the farming operation.

Allowable gross revenue must have been received from the production or sale of an ag commodity including crops, aquaculture, livestock, livestock byproduct, or other animal or animal byproduct. The commodity must have been produced in the U.S. or produced outside the U.S. by a producer located in the US and marketed in the U.S.

How to Determine Allowable Gross Revenue

The table below provides guidance for determining allowable gross revenue sources and shows what to include and exclude.

PROGRAM	PARP	
SOURCE	ALLOWABLE REVENUE	EXCLUDE GROSS REVENUE
SCHEDULE F LINE 1C "Sales of purchased livestock and other resale items," or information that could be reported on Scheduled F	Sales of agricultural commodities purchased for resale, less the cost or other basis of such commodities. NOTE: the sale of eligible aquatic species must be raised by a commercial operator and in water in a controlled environment	Resale of items not held for characteristic change
SCHEDULE F LINE 2 Sales of livestock, produce, grains, and other products you raised or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	Sales of ag commodities produced by the producer, including sales resulting from value added through post-production activities. • Inventory carried over from the prior tax year • Post-production activities (value added) i.e., grapes into wine or strawberries into jam. • Commodities not grown in the U.S. (if grown by U.S. producer and marketed in the U.S.) • IC-DISC income from the sale of agricultural commodities • Revenue from raised breeding livestock (Schedule 4797 Part 1, Column (d) or (g) or other information that could be reported on a Schedule F	• Wild free-roaming animals • Horses and other animals used for racing or wagering • Timber • Aquatic species that are NOT grown: • as food for human or livestock consumption, • for industrial or biomass uses, • as fish raised as feed for fish that are consumed by humans, or • as ornamental fish propagated and reared in an aquatic medium. Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant including the seeds, thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, that is grown under a license or other required authorization issued by the applicable governing authority that permits the production of hemp
SCHEDULE F LINE 3A "Cooperative distributions," Form 1099-PATR, or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	The taxable amount of cooperative distributions directly related to the sale of agricultural commodities produced by the applicant	
SCHEDULE F LINE 4A "Agricultural program payments", Form 1099-G, or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	Payments received under the following programs regardless of crop year or program year: • ARC/PLC • BCAP • DMC • LDP, MLG • MFP • MPP Dairy • Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP) • Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP)	Pandemic Assistance from: • CFAP 1 • CFAP 2 • PLIP • SMHPP Any pandemic assistance payments (including payments outside of FSA) that were not for the loss of agricultural commodities or the loss of revenue from agricultural commodities, including, but not limited to: • cost-share assistance • loss of buildings, etc. Other Programs: • Conservation Program Payments • 2020 Emergency Relief Program

PROGRAM	PARP	
SOURCE	ALLOWABLE REVENUE	EXCLUDE GROSS REVENUE
SCHEDULE F LINE 5A - 5C "Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans reported under election," Form 1099-A, or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	CCC loans reported under election if elected to be treated as income and reported to IRS	
SCHEDULE F LINE 6 "Crop insurance proceeds and federal crop disaster payments" or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	Crop insurance proceeds received from FCIC or a private plan of insurance regardless of crop year (as reported to IRS). Federal disaster program payments under the following programs: • 2017 WHIP • ELAP • LFP • LIP • NAP • MLP • OFSLP • TAP • WHIP+ Payments through grant agreements with FSA for losses of eligible crops • Grants from the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and state program funds for the direct loss of eligible crops or the loss of revenue for eligible crops	
SCHEDULE F LINE 7 "Custom hire (machine work) income," or information that could be reported on a Schedule F		Custom hire income
SCHEDULE F LINE 8 "Other income, including federal and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or refund," or information that could be reported on a Schedule F	Other revenue directly related to the production of agricultural commodities that IRS requires the applicant to report as income including but not limited to: • Federal and State gas/fuel tax credits • Income from by-passed (unharvested) acres • Commodity specific income received from state or local governments. • Revenue earned as a cattle feeding operation	• Income from a pass-through entity such as an S Corporation or Limited Liability Company (LLC) • Certificate Exchanges • Net gain from hedging or speculation • Wages, salaries, and tips • Cash rent • Rental of equipment or supplies • Revenue earned as a contract producer

Note: An applicant is not required to have filed a Schedule F to determine allowable gross revenue. If an applicant did not file a Schedule F, the applicant will use the applicable federal tax form filed to determine allowable gross revenue in the same manner as if a Schedule F was filed.

Payment Calculation

PARP payments are made to a producer suffering a 15% or greater loss of allowable gross revenue in 2020 compared to allowable gross revenue from 2018 or 2019 (elected by the producer).

Payments will be based on the applicant's allowable gross revenue from 2018 or 2019 (elected by the producer), minus gross revenue from 2020, multiplied by 80 percent (or 90 percent for beginning farmers and ranchers, limited resource farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers or veteran farmers and ranchers who have completed form CCC-860), minus prior applicable pandemic assistance received.

FSA will issue payments after the application period ends. USDA may prorate final payments or establish a lower maximum payment limitation if total calculated payments exceed the total funding allocated for PARP.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income

The total amount of PARP payments that a person or legal entity (excluding general partnerships and joint ventures) may receive is \$125,000.

Payments to a program applicant that is a joint operation, including a general partnership or joint venture, cannot exceed \$125,000 (or the reduced maximum payment limitation, if applicable) per person or legal entity that comprise first-level ownership of the general partnership or joint venture, unless the first level member is another joint operation.

Payments made to a legal entity will be attributed to the persons or legal entities with an ownership interest in the legal entity. For example, a \$2,000 PARP payment made to a legal entity with two members, each with 50 percent ownership share in the entity, is attributed to the legal entity and each of its members. In this example, \$2,000 is attributed to the legal entity and \$1,000 is attributed to each of the entity's members. Amounts are summed from all businesses the legal entity or its members have an interest in and limited by PARP's maximum payment limitation, \$125,000. A payment reduction is applied when the entity or any of its members reaches \$125,000. PARP payments will be attributed to individuals and legal entities until the attribution is made only to an individual person, except the attribution will stop at the fourth level of ownership. Payments to a legal entity will be reduced based on ownership interests held by members below the 4th level of ownership.



Payments made directly or indirectly to a person who is a minor child will NOT be combined with the earnings of the minor child's parent or legal guardian.

Who to Call for Help

Applicants interested in one-on-one support with the PARP program application can contact our call center at 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about the PARP program, visit farmers.gov/parp or contact your local FSA office. To find contact your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.



Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program

- PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue in calendar year 2020 as compared to:
 - The 2018 or 2019 calendar year, as elected by the producer, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 calendar years, or
 - The producers' expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.
- Signup closes on June 2, 2023



ERP Phase Two and PARP

Supporting Documentation

- ERP Phase Two and PARP will use revenue information that is readily available from most tax records.
- FSA encourages producers to have their tax documents from the past few years and supporting materials ready.
- Producers are encouraged to begin gathering supporting documentation including:
 - Schedule F (Form 1040); and
 - Profit or Loss from Farming or similar tax documents;
 - for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for ERP;
 - for calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for PARP.



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Overview

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting.

Who Is Eligible?

Eligible Producers

An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of that crop. An individual's or entity's average adjusted gross income (AGI) cannot exceed \$900,000 to be eligible for NAP payments. Also, NAP payments received, directly or indirectly, will be attributed to the applicable individual or entity and limited to \$125,000 per crop year, per individual or entity for crops with basic (catastrophic) coverage. Any NAP payments received directly or indirectly for crops with additional (buy-up) coverage, will be attributed to the applicable individual or entity and limited to \$300,000 per crop year, per individual or entity. (To learn more, visit fsa.usda.gov/limits.)

Eligible Crops

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available and be any of the following:

- Crops grown for food;
- Crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, such as grain and forage crops, including native forage; Crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax (except trees);
- Crops grown in a controlled environment, such as mushrooms and floriculture;
- Specialty crops, such as honey and maple sap;
- Sea oats and sea grass;
- Sweet sorghum and biomass sorghum;
- Industrial crops, including crops used in manufacturing or grown as a feedstock for renewable biofuel, renewable electricity or biobased products;
- Value loss crops, such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery and turf-grass sod; and
- Seed crops where the propagation stock is produced for sale as seed stock for other eligible NAP crop production.



Producers should contact a crop insurance agent for questions regarding insurability of a crop in their county. For further information on whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, producers should contact the FSA county office where their farm records are maintained.

What Is Eligible?

Eligible Causes of Loss

Eligible causes of loss include the following natural disasters:

- Damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- Adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; and
- Conditions related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrences, such as excessive heat, plant disease, volcanic smog (VOG) or insect infestation.

The damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest, and must directly affect the eligible crop.

How It Works

Coverage Levels

NAP provides basic coverage equivalent to the catastrophic level risk protection plan of insurance coverage, which is based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50 percent of expected production at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop. The 2018 Farm Bill re-authorizes higher levels of coverage ranging from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Additional (buy-up) coverage must be elected by a producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage.

Applying for Coverage

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. Underserved producers will be eligible for basic NAP coverage anytime a valid CCC-860 certification is completed. The CCC-860 form will serve as the NAP application for coverage. If a producer chooses not to participate in NAP, they must opt out on the CCC-860 form.

The application and any applicable service fee must be filed by the application closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop and are established by the FSA State Committee. Contact your local FSA office to verify application closing dates.

Producers who apply for NAP coverage acknowledge that they have received the NAP Basic Provisions, available at FSA county offices and at fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Service Fees and Premiums

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Producers who elect higher levels of coverage must also pay a premium equal to:

- The producer's share of the crop; times
- The number of eligible acres devoted to the crop; times
- The approved yield per acre; times
- The coverage level; times
- The average market price; times
- A 5.25 percent premium fee.



For value loss crops, premiums will be calculated using the maximum dollar value selected by the producer on form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage."

The maximum premium for a person or legal entity that is a NAP covered producer is \$15,750 (the maximum payment limitation times a 5.25 percent premium fee) for an application for basic coverage only. If the NAP covered producer is a joint operation, the maximum premium is based on the number of multiple persons or legal entities comprising the joint operation. Beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and qualifying veterans farmers or ranchers are eligible for a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Veteran, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification." To be eligible for a service fee waiver or premium reduction, the NAP covered producer must qualify as one of the following:

Beginning farmer or rancher – a person or legal entity who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; and
- Materially and substantially participates in the operation.

For legal entities to be considered a beginning farmer, all members must be related by blood or marriage and must be beginning farmers.

Limited resource farmer or rancher – a person or legal entity that:

- Earns no more than \$177,300 in each of the two calendar years that precede the complete taxable year before the program year, to be adjusted upwards in later years for inflation; and
- Has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income for both of the previous two years.

Limited resource producer status may be determined using the USDA Limited Resource Farmer and **Rancher Online Self Determination Tool**. The automated system calculates and displays adjusted gross farm sales per year and the higher of the national poverty level or county median household income.

For legal entities requesting to be considered Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, the sum of gross sales and household income must be considered for all members.

Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher – a farmer or a rancher who is a member of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Groups include:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives;
- Asians or Asian Americans;
- Blacks or African Americans;
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders;
- Hispanics; and
- Women.

For legal entities to be considered socially disadvantaged, the majority interest must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals.

Veteran farmer or rancher – a farmer or rancher who has served in the Armed Forces (as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101) and who:

- has operated a farm or ranch for less than 10 years, or
- first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.

Coverage Period

The coverage period for NAP varies depending on the crop. The coverage period for an annual crop begins the later of:

- The date after the application for coverage is filed and the applicable service fees have been paid; or
- The date the crop is planted (cannot exceed the final planting date).

The coverage period for an annual crop ends the earlier of the:

- Date the crop harvest is completed;
- Normal harvest date for the crop;
- Date the crop is abandoned; or
- Date the entire crop acreage is destroyed.

The coverage period for a perennial crop, other than a crop intended for forage, begins no later than 30 calendar days after the application closing date and ends the earlier of:

- 10 months from the application closing date;
- The date the crop harvest is completed;
- The normal harvest date for the crop;
- The date the crop is abandoned; or
- The date the entire crop acreage is destroyed.

Contact a local FSA office for information on the coverage periods for perennial forage crops, controlled-environment crops, specialty crops and value loss crops.

Information Required to Remain Eligible for NAP

To be eligible for NAP assistance, the following crop acreage information must be reported:

- Name of the crop (lettuce, clover, etc.);
- Type and variety (head lettuce, red clover, etc.);
- Location and acreage of the crop (field, sub-field, etc.);
- Share of the crop and the names of other producers with an interest in the crop;
Type of practice used to grow the crop (irrigated or non-irrigated);
- Date the crop was planted in each field; and
- Intended use of the commodity (fresh, processed, etc.).

Producers must report crop acreage shortly after planting (early in the risk period) to ensure reporting deadlines are not missed and coverage is not lost.

In addition, producers with NAP coverage must provide the following production information:

- The quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year;
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended; and
- Verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required by FSA).

When those records are required, producers must provide them in a manner that can be easily understood by the FSA county committee. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained for questions regarding acceptable production records.

Failure to report acreage and production information for NAP-covered crops may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region.

Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained for questions regarding local acreage reporting and final planting dates. For aquaculture, floriculture and ornamental nursery operations, producers must maintain records according to industry standards, including daily crop inventories. Unique reporting requirements apply to beekeepers and producers of Christmas trees, turf-grass sod, maple sap, mushrooms, ginseng and commercial seed or forage crops. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained regarding these requirements.

Reported Acreage and Production

FSA uses acreage reports to record the location and number of acres covered by the application. Acreage and the production reports are used to calculate the approved yield (expected production for a crop year). The approved yield is an average of a producer's actual production history (APH) for a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 10 crop years (5 years for apples and peaches). To calculate APH, FSA divides a producer's total production by the producer's crop acreage. A producer's approved yield may be calculated using substantially reduced yield data if the producer does not report production for a crop with NAP coverage, or reports fewer than 4 years of crop production.

Providing Notice of Loss and Applying for Payment

When a crop or planting is affected by a natural disaster, producers with NAP coverage must notify the FSA office where their farm records are maintained and complete Part B (the Notice of Loss portion) of form CCC-576, "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment." This must be completed within 15 calendar days of the earlier of:

- A natural disaster occurrence;
- The final planting date if planting is prevented by a natural disaster;
- The date that damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent; or
- The normal harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent. The crops subject to this requirement will be listed in the NAP Basic Provisions.

To receive NAP benefits, producers must complete form CCC-576, "Notice of Loss and Application for Payment," Parts D, E, F and G, as applicable, within 60 days of the last day of coverage for the crop year for any NAP covered crop in the unit. The CCC-576 requires acceptable appraisal information. Producers must provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

Defining a NAP Unit

The NAP unit includes all the eligible crop acreage in the county where the producer has a unique crop interest. A unique crop interest is either:

- 100 percent interest; or
- A shared interest with another producer.

Information FSA Uses to Calculate Payment

The NAP payment is calculated by unit using:

- Crop acreage;
- Approved yield;
- Net production;
- Coverage level elected by the producer;
- An average market price for the commodity established by the FSA state committee; and
- A payment factor reflecting the decreased cost incurred in the production cycle for a crop that is not harvested or prevented from being planted.

For value loss crops with additional coverage, payments will be calculated using the lesser of the field market value of the crop before the disaster or the maximum dollar value for which the producer requested coverage at the time of application.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. To find more information about FSA disaster assistance programs, visit [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator).



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Enhancements

- Producers who have a CCC-860 on file will receive basic level coverage for crop year 2022 and future years
- Producers with a valid CCC-860 certification on file for crop year 2022 will be notified of their coverage
- Any producer who has filed a CCC-860 will have basic NAP coverage initiated on all eligible crops in all counties nationwide.
- For producers whose coverage is initiated by filing a CCC-860, a yield must be calculated according to current policy.

ORGANIC AND TRANSITIONAL EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (OTECP)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Producers and handlers incur significant costs to obtain or renew USDA organic certification each year, and the economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made obtaining and renewing USDA organic certification financially challenging for many operations.

Who is Eligible?

Certified organic producers and handlers and crop and livestock producers transitioning to organic who have paid eligible expenses during the 2020, 2021, and/or 2022 fiscal year may apply for reimbursement of the incurred expenses.

FISCAL YEAR	COVERED EXPENSES COVERED FROM	APPLICATION DEADLINE
2020	October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020	February 4, 2022
2021	October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021	February 4, 2022
2022	October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022	Announced at a later date

**OTECP payments will be issued after the applicable application deadline. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.*

Is Organic Certification Required to Participate?

No. Crop and livestock producers that are in the process of transitioning to organic will be eligible to apply for cost share on transitional expenses, soil testing, and education.

However, organic certification will be required to be eligible for cost share for the crop, livestock, wild crop, handling, and State organic program fees categories. Certification must be provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent. If your operation is not currently certified organic and you would like to learn more about the certification process, please visit fsa.usda.gov/organic.





What Expenses are Reimbursable?

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement for certification application fees, inspection expenses, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, certifier sales assessments, and postage, as well as soil testing and educational event registration fees.

Transitional operations may receive reimbursement for fees charged by a certifying agent or consultant for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan, soil testing, and educational event registration fees.

What Expenses are Not Reimbursable?

Ineligible expenses include inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations, expenses related to non-USDA organic certifications, expenses related to any other labeling program, expenses related to materials/supplies/equipment, late fees, membership fees, consultant fees (except as described above for transitional operations), expenses related to educational event attendance other than registration fees, and expenses for tests other than soil testing.

What is the Maximum Reimbursement Amount?

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	CATEGORY OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	PAYMENT AMOUNT OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES PER CATEGORY
Certified operations	Organic certification – crops	25 percent, up to \$250
	Organic certification – livestock	25 percent, up to \$250
	Organic certification – wild crop	25 percent, up to \$250
	Organic certification – handling	25 percent, up to \$250
	State Organic Program fees	25 percent, up to \$250
Transitional operations	Eligible transitional expenses	75 percent, up to \$750
Certified operations and transitional operations	Educational event registration fees	75 percent, up to \$200
	Soil testing	75 percent, up to \$100

How Do I Apply for a Reimbursement?

You may apply directly to one of over 2,100 FSA offices. Applicants must submit an FSA-883, Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program form, and certify to eligible expenses, which may be subject to spot check.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements may apply. For more information, visit farmers.gov/otecp or contact your local FSA office.

To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.



Organic Assistance

Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP)

- OTECP covers:
 - Certification costs for organic producers and handlers (25% up to \$250 per category)
 - Eligible expenses for transitional producers (75% up to \$750)
 - Registration fees for educational events (75% up to \$200)
 - Soil testing (75% up to \$100)

Organics

Organic Certification Cost Share Program



Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. The program reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Once certified, organic producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for 75 percent of certification costs for program year 2023, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees.

Who is Eligible?

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees during the 2023 program years may apply for reimbursement of the incurred costs.

Program Year	Covers expenses paid from ...	The application deadline is ...*
2021	Oct. 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021	Nov. 1, 2021
2022	Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022	Oct. 31, 2022
2023	Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2023	Oct. 31, 2023

*OCCSP funds are limited and applications are paid on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications received after all funds are obligated will not be paid.

Is Certification Required to Participate?

Yes. Organic certification cost share funds are only available to certified organic producers and handlers. Certification must be provided by a **USDA-accredited certifying agent**. If your operation is not currently certified organic and you would like to learn more about the certification process, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic.

What Costs are Reimbursable?

Eligible costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage.

What Costs are Not Reimbursable?

Ineligible costs include equipment, materials, supplies, transitional certification fees, late fees, and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations.

What is the Maximum Reimbursement Amount?

The maximum per certification scope (crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, or State Organic Program fees) is \$750.

How Do I Apply for a Reimbursement

You may apply to a participating state agency according to their deadlines, or you may apply directly to one of over 2,100 FSA offices. Applicants must typically submit a one-page application form, W-9 tax form (to participating state agencies), proof of certification and an itemized invoice of certification expenses.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements may apply.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact your local FSA office.

To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.



Organic Assistance

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

- OCCSP covers 75% or up to \$750 per category of certification costs.
- This cost share for certification is available for:
 - Crops;
 - Wild crops;
 - Livestock; and,
 - Processing and handling and state organic program fees.

FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION FOR SPECIALTY CROPS



Overview

The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Program provides assistance to specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety program expenses in 2022 and 2023.

These operations incur significant costs to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements each year with little opportunity to recover increased costs.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for FSCSC applicants must meet the following:

- Be a specialty crop operation;
- Have obtained or renewed a:
 - 2022 food safety certification that was issued between June 21, 2022 and December 31, 2022; or
 - 2023 food safety certification issued during calendar year 2023; and
 - Have paid eligible expenses;
- Meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and
- Be located in the United States, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PROGRAM YEAR	ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATION DATE	APPLICATION DEADLINE
2022	June 21, 2022 - December 31, 2022	January 31, 2023
2023	January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	TBD

What Expenses are Eligible?

Specialty crop operations may receive reimbursement for developing an initial food safety plan, maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan, food safety certification, certification upload fees, microbiological testing, and training.

Specialty crop operations who obtain their food safety certification through a group model under a food safety management system are eligible for their share of eligible expenses paid by the group, in addition to any eligible expense incurred individually.

What Expenses are not Eligible?

Ineligible expenses include infrastructure improvements, equipment, supplies, salaries and benefits of employees, and fees or penalties for late payment.

What are the Maximum Payment Rates?

CATEGORY OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	PAYMENT AMOUNT OF ELIGIBLE COSTS	
	HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED FARMER OR RANCHER	ALL OTHER APPLICANTS
Development of a food safety plan for first-time certification	75 percent (no maximum)	50 percent (no maximum)
Maintaining or updating a food safety plan	75 percent, up to a maximum of \$375	50 percent, up to a maximum of \$250
Food safety certification	75 percent, up to a maximum of \$2,000	50 percent, up to a maximum of \$2,000
Certification upload fees	75 percent, up to a maximum of \$375	50 percent, up to a maximum of \$250
Microbiological testing – products	75 percent, up to 5 tests	50 percent, up to 5 tests
Microbiological testing – soil amendments	75 percent, up to 5 tests	50 percent, up to 5 tests
Microbiological testing – water	75 percent, up to 5 tests	50 percent, up to 5 tests
Training	100 percent, up to a maximum of \$300	100 percent, up to a maximum of \$200

How to Apply

Eligible specialty crop operations may apply for FSCSC by completing the FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops application, and submitting it to any FSA county office. A complete application includes all the following, which may be downloaded at farmers.gov/food-safety:

- FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Application
- AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, for new customers or existing customers who need to update their customer profile
- CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification (if applicable)
- If requested by FSA, the applicant must provide supporting documentation to substantiate the expenses. Examples of supporting documentation include paid invoices, purchase receipts, test results, food safety plans, training documentation, and other records determined acceptable by COC.

Where to Apply

You may apply at one of over 2,100 FSA offices nationwide. Applications may also be submitted by mail, fax, email, hand delivery or by electronic means. Please contact the FSA county office prior to sending applications electronically for instructions and assistance. The FSCSC application and associated forms are available online at farmers.gov/food-safety.



Who to Call for Help

Producers interested in one-on-one support with the FSCSC program application can contact our call center at 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about FSCSC, visit farmers.gov/food-safety or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.



Pandemic Assistance for Producers

Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC)

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification
- Maintaining or updating an existing food plan
- Food Safety Certification
- Certification Upload Fees
- Microbiological Testing
- Training
- Deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2024

RICE PRODUCTION PROGRAM (RPP)



Overview

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a one-time payment under the Rice Production Program (RPP) to rice producers based on 2022 planted and prevented planted acres.

Eligibility

To be eligible for RPP, a producer must have reported a share interest in an eligible type of rice planted or prevented from being planted for the 2022 crop year, by the acreage reporting deadline.

- “Eligible type of rice” for RPP means short, medium, and long grain rice, including temperate japonica and sweet rice, reported as planted or prevented from being planted for crop year 2022.
- Industrial rice and wild rice are not eligible to receive a RPP payment.

Payment Calculation

FSA will make an initial payment to eligible producers at a reduced payment rate of 1 cent per pound. If funds remain at the end of the application period, a second payment, not to exceed 1 cent per pound may be issued to eligible producers. To be eligible a producer must have reported to FSA a share interest in eligible rice. As directed by the omnibus legislation, FSA will calculate RPP payments by multiplying the payment rate, individual average actual production history (APH), as

reported to RMA, or the FSA-established yield, and the amount of certified rice acres determined by the number of planted acres and acres that were prevented from being planted. If applicable, a prevented planted factor of 60% will be applied to prevented planted acres.

Payment Limitations

The payment limitation for the program is set by statute and is higher if the farmer’s average adjusted gross farm income (income from activities related to farming, ranching, or forestry) is more than 75% of their average adjusted gross income (AGI). Specifically, a person or legal entity with adjusted gross farm income of less than 75% of their overall AGI, cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments.

Farmers who derive 75% or more of their average AGI from farming qualify for a \$250,000 payment limit. AGI is based on the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete tax year.

Rice farmers may visit their local county office to submit the appropriate form and certification (FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs), if they qualify for and want to seek the higher payment limit.

Applying for Assistance

Rice producers will be mailed prefilled applications using information on file with USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) or FSA, as reported by rice producers through their crop insurance agents or FSA county offices.

To apply for RPP, producers must return the completed FSA-174, Rice Production Program Application, to their recording FSA county office by close of business on July 10, 2023. Applications may be submitted in person or by mail, email, or facsimile.

Producers who reported eligible rice to FSA by the acreage reporting deadline, but do not receive a pre-filled application may still apply by visiting their local FSA office and completing the application by July 10, 2023.

In addition to the prefilled applications, producers must also submit the following forms, if not already on file with FSA, within 60 days of the RPP application deadline:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, for new customers or existing customers who need to update their customer profile;
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities, if applicable;
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity as provided in 7 CFR part 1400;
- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs, accompanied by a certification from a certified public accountant or attorney as to the person or legal entity's certification, for a legal entity and all members of that entity, for each applicable program year, including the legal entity's members, partners, or shareholders, as provided in 7-CFR part 1400; and
- Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification, for the RPP applicant and applicable affiliates as provided in 7-CFR part 12.



More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. For more information about RPP, visit fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA office for details. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov.



Rice Production Program (RPP)

- RPP will provide up to \$250 million in assistance to rice farmers based on 2022 planted and prevented planted acres.
- FSA is mailing pre-filled applications to producers using information on file with RMA or FSA
- Producers must return their completed FSA-174, Rice Production Program Application, to FSA by Monday, July 10, 2023.
- FSA will make an initial payment to eligible producers at a reduced payment rate of one cent per pound.

Farm Service Agency

Farm Loans Overview



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers to promote, build, and sustain family farms for a thriving agricultural economy.

Farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans are available under the Direct Loan Program. Farm ownership, operating, and conservation loans are available under the Guaranteed Loan Program. FSA offers two types of guarantees under the Land Contract Guarantee Program.

The goal of FSA's farm loan programs is to help farmers and ranchers obtain commercial credit. Once you are able to obtain credit from a commercial lender, our mission of providing temporary, supervised credit is complete.

Direct Farm Loans

FSA's Direct Loan Program is designed to help farmers start, purchase, or expand their farming operation. From beginning farmers who have limited financial history to qualify for commercial credit to farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters, FSA offers a variety of loans to provide additional resources farmers need to establish and maintain profitable farming operations. Farmers may apply for direct loans at their local FSA offices.



Guaranteed Farm Loans

FSA guaranteed loans are available to farmers who may not meet loan qualifications from a commercial lender. Guaranteed loans are made and serviced by commercial lenders, such as banks, Farm Credit System institutions, or credit unions. Under a guaranteed loan, a commercial lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss up to a maximum of 90 percent in most cases or 95 percent in limited circumstances. FSA approves eligible loan guarantees and provides oversight of lenders' activities. Contact a local FSA office for a list of participating lenders.

Farm Ownership Loans

Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs, and promote soil and water conservation and protection. The direct loans are available up to a maximum of \$600,000. Microloans are also available. FSA will guarantee farm ownership loans through a commercial leader up to \$2,037,000. The maximum repayment term is 40 years for both direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans.

Farm Operating Loans

Farm Operating Loans may be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, minor real estate repairs or improvements, and refinancing debt. The direct loans are available up to a maximum of \$400,000. Microloans are also available. FSA will guarantee farm operating loans through a commercial leader up to \$2,037,000. The repayment term may vary, but it cannot exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are generally repaid within 12 months or when the commodities produced are sold. Direct

operating loans require applicants to have sufficient education, training, or at least one year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years.

Down Payment Program

The Down Payment loan assists socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm.

Requirements:

- The applicant must make a cash-down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price;
- The maximum loan amount does not exceed 45 percent of the least of the purchase price of the farm to be acquired, the appraised value of the farm to be acquired or \$667,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan amount of \$300,150);
- The term of the loan is a maximum of 20 years. The interest rate is 4 percent below the direct farm ownership rate, but not lower than 1.5 percent;
- The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee
- Financing from participating lenders must have an amortization period of at least 30 years and cannot have a balloon payment due within the first 20 years of the loan.

Youth Loans

Youth loans may be made to young persons who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H club, FFA, tribal youth organization, or similar agriculture affiliated group. The project must provide an opportunity for the young person to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. These loans are only available as direct loans with a maximum loan amount of \$5,000. Youth loans are available to those between the ages of 10 and 20 years at the time of loan closing.



Emergency Loans

Emergency loans help farmers and ranchers who have suffered a loss caused by natural disasters that damaged their farming or ranching operation.

Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, and refinance certain debts. The county or counties where the farm is located must be declared a disaster area by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. For production loss loans, applicants must demonstrate a 30 percent loss in a single farming enterprise. Applicants may receive loans up to 100 percent of production or physical losses.



These loans are only available as direct loans from FSA with a maximum loan amount of \$500,000.

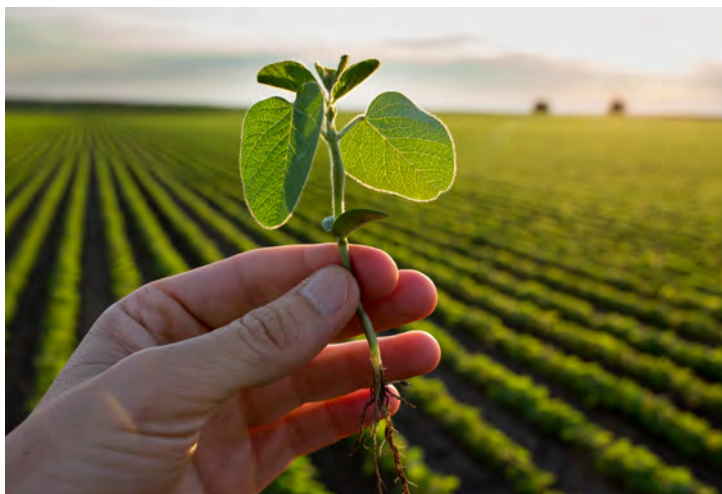
Conservation Loans

Conservation Loans provide access to credit for farmers and ranchers who want to implement conservation measures on their land. These loans are available to both smaller and less financially established farmers and ranchers, and to larger and financially stronger farmers and ranchers. The family farm and test for credit requirements are not applicable to Conservation Loans.

Farmers and ranchers may use conservation loans to complete any conservation activity included in a USDA approved conservation plan or Forestry Management Plan. The maximum loan amount is \$2,037,000 with a maximum repayment term of 30 years. Conservation Loans are available as guaranteed loans only.

Loans for Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Each year, Congress targets a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. Providing loan programs is important as these groups of farmers have historically experienced more difficulties obtaining financial assistance. FSA offers several loan programs to assist beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers (refer to the fact sheets titled Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers). FSA's Down Payment Program is offered to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm with a maximum loan amount of \$300,150.



Land Contract Guarantees

FSA also offers financial guarantees for land sale contracts to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. The seller may request either of the following:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee: A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee: A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

The buyer must provide a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the purchase price of the farm. The interest rate is fixed at a rate not to exceed the direct farm ownership loan interest rate in effect at the time the guarantee is issued, plus three percentage points. The guarantee period is 10 years for either plan regardless of the term of the land contract. The contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. Balloon payments are prohibited during the 10-year term of the guarantee.

Who is Eligible

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a family farmer;
- Have a satisfactory credit history;
- Be a citizen of the United States, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands; a U.S. non-citizen national or a qualified alien under federal immigration law;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs;
- Have the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan;
- Not have outstanding unpaid judgments obtained by the U.S. in any court, excluding judgments filed in U.S. Tax Courts;

- Not be delinquent on a federal debt;
- Must not have provided FSA with false or misleading documents or statements in the past;
- Not have been convicted under federal or state laws of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance within the last 5 crop years;
- Not have received debt forgiveness from FSA (certain exceptions apply); and
- Be within the time restrictions as to the number of years they can receive FSA assistance.

Applications may also be made by entities. Entities are corporations, cooperatives, joint operations, partnerships, trusts, and limited liability companies. Their members/stockholders must meet these same eligibility requirements. The entity must also be authorized to operate a farm or ranch in the state where the land is located.

For socially disadvantaged members, they must hold a majority interest in the entity applicant to receive targeted funding

Working with Farmers and Ranchers

FSA does more than just provide credit - it works with farmers and ranchers to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in farm production and management. FSA helps farmers and ranchers find alternative options, so they can achieve success. Learning and improving business planning and financial insight through FSA's credit management is the difference between success and failure for many farm families.

FSA works to keep farmers and ranchers farming. FSA may be able to support direct loan borrowers whose accounts are distressed or delinquent, including:

- Re-amortization, rescheduling, consolidation, and/or deferral of loans;
- Rescheduling at a lower interest rate;

- Acceptance of conservation contracts on environmentally sensitive land in exchange for reduction of debt; and
- Writing down the debt.

If none of these options results in a feasible farm operating plan, FSA will work with borrowers to determine if they are eligible for consideration to retain the homestead and up to 10 acres. Borrowers may be offered the opportunity to pay off their debt for an amount below the full debt if that amount represents the market value of the loan collateral.

Farms that come into FSA ownership are sold at market value, with preference given to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

More Information

For more information visit, fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or farmers.gov. Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.



Farm Loan Portfolio

• Direct Operating	3,167 loans	\$139.7 million
• Direct Ownership	2,392 loans	\$476.9 million
• Guaranteed Operating	679 loans	\$304.4 million
• Guaranteed Ownership	472 loans	\$337.3 million
• Microloans	961 loans	\$14.4 million
• Farm Storage	3 loans	\$268,000

*As of April 2023

**Farm
Service
Agency**

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Inflation Reduction Act Section 22006

Additional Automatic Payments for Distressed Borrowers

Overview

Section 22006 of the IRA provided \$3.1 billion for USDA to provide relief for distressed borrowers with certain Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct and/or guaranteed loans and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk.

In October 2022, USDA provided approximately \$800 million in initial IRA assistance to more than 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers and approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms liquidated and still had remaining debt. USDA also began conducting case-by-case reviews of about 1,600 complex cases for potential initial relief payments. These case-by-case reviews are underway.



Additional Assistance

To build on this initial assistance, USDA will provide relief starting in April to additional distressed borrowers. This will include approximately \$123 million in automatic financial assistance for qualifying Farm Loan Program (FLP) direct loan borrowers who meet certain criteria.

The amount of assistance a distressed borrower receives will be based on the first category of distress for which they qualify below:

1. Assistance to borrowers whose interest owed on their qualifying direct FLP loan debt exceeds the principal owed. This assistance will be determined on a loan-by-loan basis and will be equal to the outstanding interest as of March 27, 2023, on those loans.
2. Assistance to FLP direct loan borrowers who were past due on a qualifying direct loan as of September 30, 2022, but by fewer than 60 days, or became delinquent between September 30, 2022, and October 18, 2022. Qualifying borrowers are those who remain delinquent on those loans today. This assistance will be equal to the amount of the delinquency and the next installment for all direct FLP loans held by the borrower, not to exceed the remaining balance.
3. Assistance to borrowers who restructured, or who have accepted an offer to restructure, a qualifying direct FLP loan after February 28, 2020 through primary loan servicing available through FSA. This assistance will be equal to any outstanding delinquency and the next installment for all direct FLP loans held by the borrower, not to exceed the remaining balance. For any borrowers who have accepted an offer to restructure, payment will be equal to the next installment for all direct FLP loans post-restructure.

Any distressed borrowers who qualify for these forms of assistance and are currently in bankruptcy will be addressed using the same case-by-case review process announced in October 2022 for complex cases.

Learn More

Additional details, frequently asked questions, and other updates will be posted: farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance.

Borrowers can also contact the FSA call center at **877-508-8364** between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern.

For information related to tax resources, visit farmers.gov/taxes.

Improved Procedures

FSA is finalizing changes to its policy handbooks to better align with existing statutory guidance on the requirement the applicant “be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere to finance their actual needs at reasonable rates and terms”.

These measures are anticipated to include:

- ♦ Updating FSA procedures to ensure both loan officers and borrowers have the opportunity to compare FSA’s terms with those offered by commercial banks.
- ♦ In cases where banks offer terms that don’t meet the borrowers’ actual needs, updating FSA procedures to ensure that they can access credit through FSA when otherwise eligible.
- ♦ Addressing FSA procedures to offer terms that assist borrowers in the accumulation of working capital reserves.
- ♦ Directing FSA staff to use their discretion to better benefit the borrowers they serve.

Legislative Proposals

The Fiscal Year 2024 President’s Budget also includes eight legislative proposals focused on expanding credit access through FSA’s Direct Farm Ownership, Direct Farm Operating, and Emergency Loan programs. These are no-cost legislative proposals that are designed to improve the borrower experience.

The specific proposals include:

- ♦ **Eliminating the cap on the number of times a borrower can receive a Direct Operating or Direct Farm Ownership Loan.** Each year, agricultural producers exhaust their loan eligibility due to statutory caps on the number of years an agricultural producer may receive direct loan funds from the Secretary. Removing this requirement will assist various types of borrowers, including borrowers who live in credit deserts

and borrowers who have continued need for loan assistance beyond the current limits.

- ♦ **Removing Emergency Loan program requirements for written credit denial and adjusting the production loss percent threshold from 30% to an amount to be determined by the Secretary.** Agricultural producers impacted by a disaster who wish to use emergency loan funding must provide one or more written declinations from a commercial lender. Removing this requirement will better align emergency loan eligibility requirements with farm ownership and operating loan eligibility requirements and improve producer access to emergency funding in the wake of disasters.
- ♦ **Reducing the Direct Farm Ownership Loan experience eligibility requirement from three years down to one year.** Reducing experience requirements will lower existing barriers to entry into this loan program, allowing for greater program participation.
- ♦ **Increasing the Direct Beginning Farmer Down Payment Loan Program loan limit to match the regular Farm Ownership loan limit.** Direct farm ownership loan limits have increased over time, while the limit for the down payment loan program has remained the same, resulting in a decrease in utilization of that program over time. Aligning the down payment loan limit with the limit for other direct farm ownership loans will increase program utilization relative to other direct farm ownership loans.
- ♦ **Increasing the Microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000.** The microloan program is essential for many beginning farmers and ranchers and non-traditional farm operations with limited experience or assets, but the current loan limit reduces the effectiveness of the program. Increasing the limit will improve

utilization of the microloan program, which will reduce loan processing times and help more customers establish experience and eligibility required for other loan options.

- ♦ **Revising the beginning farmer definition to include entities comprised of non-related individuals.** The current language defining “qualified beginning farmer or rancher” requires in the case of a cooperative, corporation, partnership, joint operation, or such other legal entity that all members of such entity be related to one another by blood or marriage. Removing this requirement will expand program eligibility to entities whose members are not related by blood or marriage, but otherwise qualify as beginning farmers or ranchers.
- ♦ **Expanding Mediation Services to tribes and territories.** Currently, borrowers operating on federally recognized tribal land and in U.S. territories must participate in programs maintained by a nearby State, which may disenfranchise customers with unique cultural and technical backgrounds. This provision expands additional mediation services directly to tribes and territories.
- ♦ **Revising the beginning farmer reserved funding to ensure funds are targeted to the extent practicable.** The current beginning farmer lending targets reserve a substantial amount of appropriated loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers, thus limiting funds available to non-beginning farmers. This change will allow FSA greater flexibility to fund approved all loan requests while maintaining robust support of beginning farmer customers.



Inflation Reduction Act

Assistance for Distressed Borrowers (Section 22006)

- **Debt Relief Payments (Round 1)**
 - Almost \$600 million in payments to the accounts of about 11,000 direct and guaranteed borrowers who were 60 or more days delinquent make their loans current.
 - Assistance to help borrowers who are 60 or more days delinquent, but also facing more serious or complicated situations like pending foreclosure or bankruptcy.
 - \$211 million in payments to resolve the remaining debts for approximately 2,100 borrowers that had their loan collateral liquidated but had remaining debt that was referred, or is subject to referral, to Treasury for offset or collections.
 - Made over \$49 million in payments from available pandemic assistance to reverse the impact from the disaster set-aside to provide a level of assistance like that provided to delinquent borrowers.

Inflation Reduction Act

Assistance for Distressed Borrowers (Section 22006)

- Debt Relief Payments (Round 2)
 - Payments will target:
 - Borrowers who took extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency;
 - Borrowers who were delinquent but were not eligible for previous automatic payments;
 - Borrowers who had a recent loan restructuring or a series of restructures; and
 - The few remaining borrowers not already addressed whose interest exceeds their loan principal balance.



Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Producers Who Experienced Discrimination in USDA Farm Loan Programs

(Last updated 5/15/2023; check <https://www.farmers.gov/22007> for updates.)

Overview

Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act, signed by President Biden in August 2022, provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.

USDA took immediate steps to convene listening sessions and seek public comment about the design of the program to ensure that farmers, advocates, academics, legislators, tribal governments, and other experts were heard. USDA has committed to making payments to farmers by the end of 2023.

Where We Are Now

After considering the public feedback, in March 2023, USDA announced the basic structure of the program. The IRA specifies this assistance must be delivered to impacted producers by nongovernmental program administrators.

USDA is in the process of finalizing plans with vendors who, together, will serve as a national administrator and four regional hubs that will conduct outreach and process applications from eligible farmers.

The application process is not yet open. USDA and the vendors are working to ensure the process will be simple and that technical assistance will be available. Applications for this program are free, and do not require a lawyer.

USDA is encouraging the vendors to partner with organizations that have experience in agriculture and that work with and represent producers, and who have a relationship with USDA. These partners or subcontractors may conduct outreach and assist potential applicants with the financial assistance application process.

In addition, USDA is bringing in other trusted cooperators to help conduct outreach and technical assistance, ensure potential applicants are informed about the program and have the opportunity to apply.

The vendors who will process the applications include Midtown Group, which will serve as the national administrator; Windsor Group, which will serve farmers in the eastern regions of the U.S.; and Analytic Acquisitions, which will serve the western regions. All three organizations have experience in professional services, supporting government contracts, and USDA programs.

What's Next

Specific details concerning the producer application process and timing will be made available soon.

USDA aims to distribute payments to impacted producers by the end of 2023. More information will be posted to <https://www.farmers.gov/22007> as it becomes available.

Learn More

Specific details concerning the producer application process and timing will be available in the coming weeks at <https://www.farmers.gov/22007>. For help with additional questions, please email askusda@usda.gov.

What to do if you are currently experiencing discrimination in USDA programs or need to find answers about a previously filed complaint?

If you are currently experiencing discrimination, you may contact the **Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR)** at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, Information Research Service, at (866) 632-9992 (toll free) or send an email to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at CR-INFO@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact OASCR through the Federal Relay Service on 711. Those who prefer Spanish can use (800) 845-6136.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack:

"These funds are yet another step in the long march towards justice and an inclusive, equitable USDA. Through this program and a neutral, comprehensive financial assistance process, USDA will acknowledge wrongs of the past and open up avenues that provide farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who have experienced discrimination by USDA the opportunity to be heard.

"In providing this financial assistance, our goal is to make sure eligible people have adequate, understandable information about what is available to them, how to apply, and what to expect from USDA at each step. As we work to make all our programs more equitable, accessible and accountable, we are applying these same principles to make sure all Americans know how to engage with USDA's services so we can prevent more inequities and build new levels of trust with the People's Department going forward."



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Inflation Reduction Act

Producers Who Experienced Discrimination in USDA Farm Loan Programs (Section 22007)

- Provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.
- USDA is in the contracting process to identify administrator hubs.
- The next phase of the program will be the application process.
- USDA aims to distribute payments to impacted producers by the end of 2023

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Avoid Scams Related to USDA Financial Assistance for Farmers Facing Discrimination

(Check <https://www.farmers.gov/22007> for updates.)

Overview

Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.

USDA is aware of some lawyers and groups spreading misleading information about this process, pressuring people to sign retainer agreements, and asking people to fill out forms with private and sensitive information. Note that application forms for this program are **not** yet available and the application filing period has **not** started.

You can get up-to-date information about this program at [farmers.gov/22007](https://www.farmers.gov/22007), a USDA website.

Protect Yourself from Potential Scams!

1. When in doubt, check it out.

- ♦ Avoid providing personal or financial information to unknown parties.
- ♦ Beware of solicitations by mail, email, or phone calls from individuals claiming to be connected to USDA. USDA will not solicit you for information.
- ♦ There is **no** fee to apply for this financial assistance.
- ♦ The most current information on the process and timeline of this program can currently be found at [farmers.gov/22007](https://www.farmers.gov/22007). Before the application process opens, the National Administrator of this program will provide a webpage you can go to for helpful information; it will be linked from [farmers.gov/22007](https://www.farmers.gov/22007).

2. Beware of organizations seeking to file your application for a fee.

- ♦ You will **not** need a lawyer to file an application for financial assistance under Section 22007 of the IRA. If you feel the need for legal advice, seek the assistance of a trusted, licensed attorney.
- ♦ Before the application process opens, USDA will publish a list of trusted community organizations located across the country; these organizations will provide **FREE** help completing applications.
- ♦ Filing an application will be **FREE**.
- ♦ Beware of advance-fee scams or solicitations that promise a significant share of a large sum of money.

3. Report scams to the USDA Office of the Inspector General.

- ♦ Beware of scams involving fake settlement or cashier's checks followed by requests to wire part of the payment to an individual disguised as an attorney.
- ♦ If you believe there is an organization conducting a scam related to this process, please contact the USDA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) or any other appropriate authorities. The USDA OIG hotline complaint can be accessed online at <https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/hotline>; OIG's phone number is (800) 424-9121.

Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program

American Rescue Plan Act

Overview

Section 1006 of the Inflation Reduction Act, as amended by Section 22007 of the American Rescue Plan Act includes provisions for USDA to ensure underserved producers have resources, tools, programs, and technical support they need to succeed. As part of Section 1006, as amended, USDA launched the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access (Increasing Land Access) Program to fund cooperative agreements or grants for projects that help move underserved producers from surviving to thriving. The program is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency and will help underserved producers by increasing land, capital, and market access.

Land access is critical to the success of agriculture. Underserved producers have not received the amount of specialized technical support that would benefit the launch, growth, resilience, and success of their agricultural enterprises. The Increasing Land Access Program is intended to address this problem by increasing access to farm ownership opportunities, increasing access and improving results for those with heirs' property or fractionated land, increasing access to markets and capital that affect the ability to access land, and increasing land ownership, land succession, and agricultural business planning.

Who is Eligible?

Funding is available to various government entities from local to Tribal, not-for-profit educational institutions, and non-profit organizations.

The non-profit organizations can include Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), foundations, and Tribal financial institutions with a 501c3 status.

Individuals, non-domestic entities, and private, for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply to this funding opportunity.

What projects are being considered?

Projects must focus on strengthening land access with at least one of the following related areas of concern:

- Capital access concerns that affect the ability to access land.
- Market access concerns that affect the ability to access land.
- A combination of one or more of land, capital, and market access concerns.

Projects should benefit underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers and farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners living in high poverty areas. Priority points will be awarded to projects that focus on increasing land access, mitigating and preventing land loss, providing specialized project design and focus to address the challenges with land access, innovative ways to connect available land to underserved producers who have challenges in accessing land, or restore lands into the hands underserved producers.



How to Apply

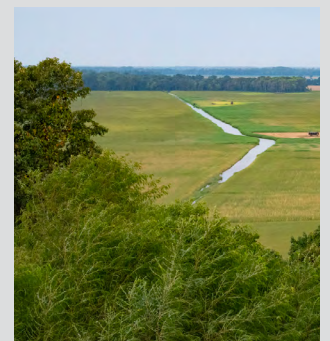
The agreements will be for up to five years and may be local, state, regional, or national in scope. Due to the unique nature of land access among Tribal communities, Tribal projects may be in all scopes.

Eligible applicants can apply through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Eligible entities must submit their applications by 11:59 p.m. EST on November 18, 2022.

Learn More

USDA has a historic commitment to ensure equity across all of its policies and activities. To this end, USDA seeks to improve access to programs and services for all stakeholders and rural communities, especially underserved farmers, ranchers and forest landowners and operators. More information is available at: www.usda.gov/equity.





Inflation Reduction Act

Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program (Section 22007)

- This program will fund cooperative agreements or grants for project in one of the areas of concern:
 - Capital access concerns that affect ability to access land
 - Market access concerns that affect the ability to access land
 - A combination of one or more of land, capital, and market access concerns.
- FSA expects to announce selections later in 2023



Stay in Touch



Producers can signup at farmers.gov/subscribe for email communications.

Producers can text STCountyName to FSANOW (372-669) for text alerts.

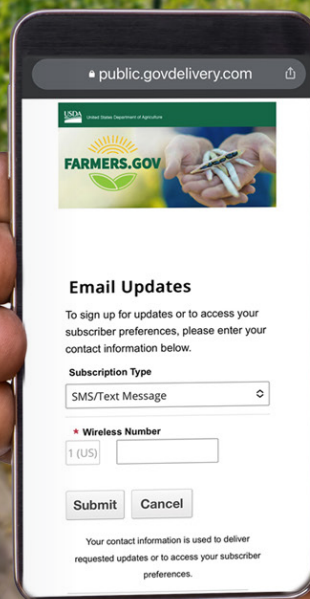
- TXBrazos, TXEIPaso



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