

Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information on the programs that are provided in your area. To find your local center visit [www.offices.usda.gov](http://www.offices.usda.gov), click on your state, then your county. You also can contact your local State Agricultural Office to learn about funding.

### Minority Farm Register

Sign-up for the USDA Minority Farm Register. The register promotes equal access for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, and tenants to USDA farm programs. For more information, you can email the Minority Farm Register at [advocacyandoutreach@osec.usda.gov](mailto:advocacyandoutreach@osec.usda.gov) or call (202) 720-6350.

To learn more about USDA and how the department helps farmers, please visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) or contact your State USDA outreach worker for assistance or call (202)720-2791

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Disaster Program Information

*Information on the different programs available for farmers during an Emergency or Disaster.*

United States Department of Agriculture



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports the American agricultural economy. With the new Farm Bill in place, USDA provides farmers, farmland owners, ranchers, tenants and others with the help they may need. This brochure highlights a variety of USDA's available programs.

USDA programs affect all aspects of rural life. Whether you have suffered through drought, flood, pest, wildfire, or another calamity, these programs may help you get back on your feet. All applications and questions should first be submitted to your local USDA service center.

Find the nearest location at [www.offices.usda.gov](http://www.offices.usda.gov) or (202) 720-2791

### USDA Agencies and Programs

#### Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Phone Number: (202) 720-3467  
<http://askfsa.custhelp.com>

#### Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

ARC and PLC offer price or revenue protection for wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, long and medium grain rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe, sesame seed, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, and peanuts when commodity prices (for PLC) or revenues (for ARC) are below certain rates.

#### Emergency Loans

FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. You may be eligible if you

- have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property; have an acceptable credit history;
- are unable to receive credit from commercial sources;
- can provide collateral to secure the loan; and have repayment ability. Producers can borrow a maximum amount of \$500,000.

Applications for emergency loans must be received within eight months of the county's disaster or quarantine designation date.

## Disaster Assistance

### **1. Disaster Set-Aside**

Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) can provide relief for producers who are unable to make scheduled direct loan payments to FSA, by moving one full year's payment to the end of the loan. To be eligible, the borrower must have operated a farm or ranch in a primary or contiguous designated disaster area. Each loan considered for DSA must have been outstanding at the time of the disaster and no more than 90 days past due. Applications must be submitted within eight (8) months of designation. Please ask your local FSA loan officer to see if you qualify.

### **2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**

The LFP is for grazing losses on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county.

### **3. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**

The LIP is for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. LIP also covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

### **4. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

The ELAP is for livestock death not covered by LIP, for grazing losses not covered by LFP; for farm-raised fish and honeybee death and feed losses.

### **5. Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**

The TAP provides cost share to replant or rehabilitate commercial orchards and tree nurseries damaged by natural disasters.

### **6. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

The NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster or an adverse weather event.

*The Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) retroactively extends LFP, LIP, ELAP, and TAP to cover eligible losses back to October 1, 2011.*

### **7. Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10 to 15 years in length. Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres may be authorized under emergency conditions.

### **8. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

The ECP helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place measures for water conservation and enhancement for livestock and existing orchard and vineyard irrigation systems during severe drought.

### **9. Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)**

The EFRP is for owners of non-industrial, privately owned forests to restore forest health and forest resources damaged by natural disasters.

### **Margin Protection Program (MPP)**

MPP-Dairy, authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014, is a voluntary risk management program that provides payments to dairy producers when the difference (also called the margin) between the national all milk price and the national average feed cost falls below the margin coverage levels (trigger) the producer chooses on an annual basis.

The MPP-Dairy program helps farmers by providing a framework that protects farm equity by providing a safety net when dairy margins are low.

Eligible producers may elect catastrophic level coverage or purchase buy-up coverage for their dairy operation by based on an established production history.

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Phone Number: (202) 720-3210**

### The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The EQIP provides private land owners financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns. Up to 10 years in length, these contracts offer opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Limited resource farmers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers may be eligible for higher payment rates.

Notably, the Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and previous funding for these programs are now part of EQIP. Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis; however, deadline dates are established for evaluation of eligible applications.

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The CSP provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Payments are made after October 1. for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous fiscal year.

### Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

The EWP is a cost-share program to conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

## National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

**http://eden.lsu.edu**

### Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

NIFA partners with more than 100 land-grant universities to bring resources to the public through non-formal education efforts. The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) provides resources to communities, families and individuals to help reduce the impact of natural disasters. This network of Extension educators shares practical knowledge and information on agricultural and natural disasters, threats to families, communities, and human health.

### Rural Development (RD)

**Phone Number: 1(800) 670-6553**

### Water and Environmental Programs

The WEP provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for assistance.

### Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants assist rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency. Emergencies may be, but are not limited to, a drought; earthquake; flood; tornado; hurricane; disease outbreak; or chemical spill, leakage, or seepage. Grants may range from \$150,000 to \$500,000. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis through Rural Development state and local offices.

### Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) provides a variety of crop and livestock related insurance products, which protect against agricultural production losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, hurricane, tornado, lightning, and pests. For more information, visit [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov) or call (202) 690-2803.