



First Visit? What to Bring Documents to Get Started



Information Required for Farm Number

Producers can establish a farm with Farm Service Agency (FSA) if they plan to apply for a program administered by FSA or another USDA agency that requires a farm number. To establish a farm, the following documentation can be provided to your local FSA office:

1. FSA form AD-2047 to collect personal information including address, Social Security Number, phone number(s), fax number(s), email address, etc., for each member of the farming operation, in addition to a copy of Social Security Card.

If the farming interest is through an entity, the same information must be provided for the entity.

2. Copy of the deed or other legal document that transferred ownership of the property to you with all required signatures and stamps to show it has been notarized and recorded. Ownership information must be provided for all the agricultural land in which there is an interest (i.e. owner, operator, tenant, etc.), not only the farm that will be enrolled in an FSA or other USDA agency program.

If you lease a farm, a deed must be provided to FSA to establish the farm, in addition to a copy of the lease(s) to verify the current operator or tenant on the farm.

3. If the property is owned and/or operated through an entity (i.e. corporation, LLC, partnership, etc.), copies of the official documents must be provided for the entity. This is required by federal regulation as verification for: (1) the representative authorized to sign for the entity, and (2) the entity exists and is recognized by the Texas Secretary of State, if applicable.

4. A map is not required to be submitted, but may assist FSA staff in locating property.

Additional information may be requested, as required by FSA handbook 10-CM.

Once the farm has been established, it will be assigned a farm number. The farm number is used by other USDA agencies for the program applications (i.e. NRCS uses farm numbers for EQIP applications, etc.). Producers will also be included on FSA's mailing list and will receive monthly newsletters and other general mailings pertaining to USDA programs.

Information Required for Land Changes

If information for an existing farm number needs to be updated, such as the owner(s), operator, or the addition or removal of land, the below information can be provided to FSA to request the record change:

- Copy of Recorded Deed
- Copy of Field Notes and Survey
- Copy of the Plat Map

Short List

1. AD-2047
2. Copy of Deed
3. Lease Agreement, if applicable.
4. Copies of official documents for entity, if applicable.
5. Maps are not required, but may assist FSA staff in locating property.

If you have additional questions on what documents may be needed to get started, contact your local FSA office.

Find your local Service Center at farmers.gov

FSA has additional flexibilities for operators of heirs' property in obtaining a farm number or being declared operator of a farm.

Visit farmers.gov/heirs for more information.

Establishing Producer Record

To create a producer record with FSA, the information for the applicable producer type must be submitted to your local FSA office. Additional information may be requested for determining payment eligibility to participate in FSA or other USDA programs.

Individuals

- AD-2047
- Social Security Card
- Voided Check (if participating in FSA programs)

Estates

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Copy of Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned to the Estate by the IRS
- Copy of Order to Probate, if the Estate will be probated
- Copy of Will or Copy of Affidavit of Heirship
- If no will, Original Letter of Testamentary or Letter of Administration

Corporations

- Copy of Articles of Incorporation
- Copy of Bylaws
- Copy of Certification of Incorporation
- Copy of Organizational Meeting Minutes
- Copy of SS-4 letter from the IRS, assigning the EIN for the corporation

Note: If the corporation is made up of all individuals, the information for new individuals will be required as identified above.

Limited Liability Company (LLC)

- Copy of Certificate of Organization
- Copy of Exhibit A or Schedule A
- Copy of Limited Liability Company Regulation
- Copy of Operating Agreement
- Copy of Organizational Meeting Minutes
- Copy of SS-4 letter from the IRS, assigning the EIN for the LLC

Note: If the LLC is made up of all individuals, the information for new individuals will be required as identified above.

If the LLC is made up of a corporation or LTD/LP, the information required for that entity type will be required as identified on the page.

Limited Partnership (LTD) or (LP)

- Copy of Certificate of Limited Partnership
- Copy of Limited Partnership Agreement
- Copy of Exhibit A or Schedule A
- Copy of SS-4 letter from the IRS, assigning the EIN for the LTD or LP

Note: If the LTD/LP is made up of all individuals, the information for new individuals will be required as identified above.

If the LTD/LP is made up of a corporation or LLC, the information required for that entity type will be required as identified on the page.





DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Overview

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized the use of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, such as losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

The 2018 Farm Bill amended certain provisions related to ELAP effective with the 2019 program year. Those amendments included:

- removing ELAP from the combined ELAP and LFP maximum per person and legal entity payment limitation for the 2019 and subsequent program years;
- providing reimbursement of 90 percent of the cost of losses for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, or veteran farmer or rancher;
- 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 under LIP.

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

What Is Eligible?

Eligible Losses

ELAP provides assistance for livestock feed and grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands; losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought; losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock for treatment and/or inspection related to cattle tick fever, honeybee feed, colony and hive losses; and farm-raised fish feed and death losses. ELAP also helps ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling feed to livestock and hauling livestock to forage or other grazing acres due to a qualifying drought.



Eligibility Requirements and Payment Calculations

For additional information regarding eligibility requirements and payment calculations for a specific type of livestock, honeybee and/or farm-raised fish loss, see the ELAP - Farm-Raised Fish Assistance, ELAP - Honeybee Assistance or ELAP - Livestock Assistance fact sheet at fsa.usda.gov/ELAP.

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

An eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, or a veteran farmer or rancher will receive 90 percent of the payment rate for the losses under ELAP.

Payment Limitations

The 2018 Farm Bill removed ELAP from a combined \$125,000 payment limitation under ELAP and LFP. Therefore, effective for 2019 and subsequent program years, payment limitation does not apply to ELAP benefits. 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 apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 is not 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. To learn more, visit the Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations fact sheet at fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations.

How it Works

Applying for Assistance

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 losses must submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for their business.

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

Date of Loss	Final Date to File Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
For program year 2023 and subsequent years, within Jan. 1 – Dec. 31.	Jan 30 after the program year in which the loss occurred.	Jan 30 after the program year in which the loss occurred.



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 for livestock sale 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, horses or other animals used or intended for racing or wagering, consumption by owner, and animals producers or maintained for hunting.

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	Chickens, Chicks Chickens, Layers	Swine, Lightweight Barrows, Gilts (50 to 150 pounds)	Deer
Adult Buffalo/Bison/Water Buffalo Bulls	Chickens, Pullets/Cornish Hens (small size) (Less than 4.26 pounds)	Swine, Sows, Boars, Barrows, Gilts (151 to 450 pounds)	Elk
Adult Beefalo Bulls	Roasters (6.26 to 7.75 pounds)	Swine, Sows, Boars, Barrows, Gilts (151 to 450 pounds)	Emus
Adult Beefalo Cows	Super Roasters/Parts (7.76 pounds or more)	Swine, Sows, Boars (over 450 pounds)	Equine
Adult Buffalo/Bison/Water Buffalo Cows	Ducks, Ducklings		Goats, Bucks Goats, Nannies
Adult Dairy Bulls	Ducks, Ducks		Goats, Slaughter Goats/Kids
Adult Dairy Cows Non-Adult Beef Cattle	Geese, Goslings		Llamas
Non-Adult Buffalo/Bison/Water Buffalo	Geese, Goose		Ostriches
Non-Adult Beefalo	Turkeys, Poults		Reindeer
Non-Adult Dairy Cattle	Turkeys, Toms, Fryers, Roasters		Caribou
			Sheep, Rams
			Sheep, Ewes
			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, CVV, and Theileria Orientalis.

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 2024 LIP losses, livestock owners and contract growers may apply for 2024 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
Calendar year 2023 and all subsequent years	60 days after the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred	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.

LIP Decision Tool

The newly launched LIP Decision Tool assists livestock producers who suffered losses from eligible adverse weather events and other causes of loss as well as cooperators who are helping disaster-impacted livestock producers navigate available federal disaster assistance programs. To establish eligibility for LIP benefits, the optional decision tool gives producers clear guidance on what is needed to gather and submit required loss documentation, reducing the amount of time needed to complete applications and enabling FSA county office staff to deliver much-needed assistance faster.

Through use of the LIP tool, livestock producers can provide to FSA county offices the supporting documentation, inventory numbers, and loss numbers at their initial visit, which will help the office serve customers more effectively and efficiently. The tool is available at farmraise.com/usda-fsa.

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.



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.

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, and clearing snow from feed stocks, water supplies, and feeding areas);
- 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>.