

April 2014



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- * Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Mendocino/Lake County Farm Service Agency

Mendocino/Lake County FSA Office Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

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The Agricultural Act of 2014 also known as the 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock types under LFP include alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep or swine that have been 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 excluded the livestock producer from grazing the normally permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to fire.

Eligible livestock must:

- Have been owned, purchased or entered into a contract to purchase during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been held by a contract grower or sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or one or both of the two production years

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

immediately preceding the current production year;

- 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);
- 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 producer.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for LFP, producers must:

- 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 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;
- Timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a loss of grazing is being claimed.

Payments

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to 1, 3, 4 or 5 times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost:

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

Total LFP payments to an eligible livestock producer in a calendar year for grazing losses will not exceed five monthly payments for the same livestock.

In the case of an eligible livestock producer 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 producers 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 producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire, not to exceed 180 calendar days.

Mendocino and Lake County livestock producers are eligible to apply for LFP benefits in both 2013 and 2014. Producers will be asked to provide their livestock inventory and livestock location for the following dates:

	Mendocino	Lake
2013	06/18/2013	06/25/2013
2014	01/14/2014	01/14/2014

Please call the FSA office to make an appointment to sign-up.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the average fair market value of the livestock.

Please contact the Farm Service Agency office for more information or [click here](#) for a fact sheet about the program.

Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized up to \$20 million in a fiscal year (FY) for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to provide emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. ELAP covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture that occurs on or after Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, specifically the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). A national payment factor may be applied to ELAP if program requests exceed \$20 million in a program year.

Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Starting with the 2012 program year (Oct. 1, 2011), an eligible livestock producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or a beginning farmer or rancher, will have their payments for livestock losses under ELAP based on a national payment factor of 90 percent.

Please contact your Farm Service Agency office for more information or [click here](#) for the fact sheets about ELAP.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to provide financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

The 2014 Farm Bill makes TAP a permanent disaster program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

Eligible Tree Types

Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

Eligible Losses

To be considered an eligible loss:

- Eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been lost or damaged as a result of natural disaster;
- The individual stand must have sustained a mortality loss or damage loss in excess of 15 percent after adjustment for normal mortality or damage to be determined based on:
 - Each eligible disaster event, except for losses due to plant disease;
 - For plant disease, the time period as determined by the FSA for which the stand is infected.
- The loss could not have been prevented through reasonable and available measures;
- The damage or loss must be visible and obvious to the FSA representative; if the damage is no longer visible, FSA may accept other loss evidence that the agency determines is reasonable;
- FSA may require information from a qualified expert to determine extent of loss in the case of plant disease or insect infestation.

Eligible Producers

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- Have suffered qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand;
- Have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred, but eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes and vines are planted;
- Replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

Acreage Limitations

The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines for which a producer can receive TAP payments cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

Please contact your Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for more information or [click here](#) for the program fact sheet.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).