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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FSA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF DEADLINE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – January 17, 2012 – Scherrie Giamanco, State Executive Director for USDA’s Illinois Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds Illinois livestock owners they have until Monday, January 30, 2012, to submit an application for payment under the 2012 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock grazing, honeybees and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires.

ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other disaster assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. FSA is authorized to spend up to \$50 million per year nationwide to provide emergency relief for ELAP eligible losses.

Producers who feel they have suffered a qualifying loss are encouraged to file an application for the 2010 ELAP. Contact the local County FSA Office for more information regarding ELAP or visit our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nm).

Please contact the office for additional eligibility requirements. A list of eligible livestock is available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt).

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