



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

July 2012

Montana FSA Disaster Program Assistance

As authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides assistance for natural disaster losses, resulting from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornadoes, pest infestation, and other calamities. FSA programs are administered in the 48 FSA county offices located in communities across Montana.

Loans for losses to crops, trees, livestock, farm land and farm property:

The [Emergency Loan Program](#) provides low-interest 2.25 percent loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. A secretarial, presidential or FSA administrator's disaster declaration is required.

The [Disaster Debt Set-Aside Program](#) provides producers who have existing direct loans with FSA who are unable to make the scheduled payments to move up to one full year's payment to the end of the loan. Assistance is available in counties, or contiguous counties, who have been designated as emergencies by the President, Secretary or FSA Administrator.

Farm land damage:

The [Emergency Conservation Program](#) (ECP) provides assistance to producers if their land was damaged by a natural disaster and needs conservation practices. Examples include removing debris; restoring fences and conservation structures; and providing water for livestock in drought situations.

Crop Losses:

[The Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) provides assistance for crop losses when federal crop insurance is not available. A policy must be purchased by sales closing date.

Tree Losses:

[The Emergency Forest Restoration Program \(EFRP\)](#) 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.

Livestock and Grazing Losses:

[Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#) acres allows producers to hay or graze CRP acreage during an emergency. With prior approval of FSA, emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought. A CRP payment reduction will apply.

Emergency Use of CRP:

In cases of wildfire/flood, livestock producers in the affected county may get approval to temporarily use CRP in order to protect their livestock. Prior approval is required.

*****NOTE*****

Congress is currently working on the next Farm Bill. FSA county offices administer FSA programs authorized under the federal 2008 Farm Bill of which five disaster programs are only authorized for natural disasters occurring prior to Sept. 30, 2011. These five disaster programs are:

- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- [The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments \(SURE\) Signup for the 2011 crop year is expected to occur this fall/winter for the SURE program.](#)

RECORD KEEPING:

While we do not know what the program requirements will be for any new disaster programs in the new Farm Bill, FSA encourages agricultural producers with 2012 losses to keep records, including photos of dead livestock, receipts, inventories, description of cause of loss, dates of loss, etc. in anticipation of future disaster programs.

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