

Farm Service Agency
LFP

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

FACT SHEET
March 2019

Overview

The 2014 Farm Bill, as amended, authorize the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) to provide payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover) that has suffered grazing losses due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

LFP also provides payments to eligible livestock owners or contract growers that have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

The qualifying drought and qualifying grazing losses (or notification of prohibition to graze Federal land) must have occurred in the grazing period and crop year.



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

Eligible Counties for Drought

An eligible livestock owner or contract grower who as a grazed forage crop producer owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a:

- **D2 (severe drought)** intensity in any area of the county for at least eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to one monthly payment;
- **D3 (extreme drought)** intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments;
- **D3 (extreme drought)** intensity in any area of the county for at least four weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to four monthly payments; or
- **D4 (exceptional drought)** in a county for four weeks (not necessarily four consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.

A map of eligible counties for LFP drought may be found at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>.

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Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock are grazing animals such as alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep 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 prohibited the livestock owner or contract grower from having livestock graze 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 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); and
- 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 livestock owner or contract grower.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for LFP, persons or legal entities must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership of U.S. citizens, or a legal entity organized under State law that:

- 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; and
- 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 one, three, four or five times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost:

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

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



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In the case of an eligible livestock owner or contract grower 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 owners or contract growers 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 owner or contract grower is prohibited from having livestock graze the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire, not to exceed 180 calendar days.

Payment Limitation

The Agriculture Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) established a maximum annual per person and legal entity payment limitation for LFP (without regard to any other program) and that amount is \$125,000. Therefore, for 2019 and subsequent program years, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total in payments under LFP. 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 average AGI will apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an average AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive LFP payments.

Direct attribution provisions also apply to LFP. 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 www.fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations.

Enrollment

Eligible livestock owners or contract growers who are producers of grazed forage crop acreage must, in addition to reporting grazed forage crop acreage by the crop's acreage reporting date, provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

Contract growers must include a copy of the grower contract and any other supporting documents required for determining contract grower eligibility.

Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, evidence that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased. If a loss of grazing was due to a fire that the livestock owner or contract grower was prohibited by the federal agency from having livestock graze the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a fire.

FSA will use data provided by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Providing the data is voluntary; however, without all required data, program benefits will not be approved or provided.

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 <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



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The following table provides the monthly feed cost payment rate per head by covered livestock category:

LIVESTOCK PAYMENT RATES						
KIND	TYPE	WEIGHT RANGE	PAYMENT RATE PER HEAD			
			2016	2017	2018	2019
Beef	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$32.36	\$30.00	\$28.07	\$29.34
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$24.27	\$22.50	\$21.05	\$22.01
Dairy	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$84.14	\$78.00	\$72.98	\$76.29
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$24.27	\$22.50	\$21.05	\$22.01
Beefalo	Adult	Bulls, Cows	\$32.36	\$30.00	\$28.07	\$29.34
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more	\$24.27	\$22.50	\$21.05	\$22.01
Buffalo/Bison	Adult	Bulls, Cows		\$30.00	\$28.07	\$29.34
	Non-Adult	500 pounds or more		\$22.50	\$21.05	\$22.01
Sheep	All		\$8.09	\$7.50	\$7.02	\$7.34
Goats	All		\$8.09	\$7.50	\$7.02	\$7.34
Deer	All		\$8.09	\$7.50	\$7.02	\$7.34
Equine	All		\$23.95	\$22.20	\$20.77	\$21.71
Elk	All					\$15.85
		Less than 400 pounds	\$7.12	\$6.60	\$6.18	
		400 to 799 pounds	\$13.27	\$12.30	\$11.51	
		800 pounds or more	\$17.47	\$16.20	\$15.16	
Reindeer		All	\$7.12	\$6.60	\$6.18	\$6.46
Alpacas		All	\$26.65	\$24.71	\$23.12	\$24.17
Emus		All	\$16.56	\$15.36	\$14.37	\$15.02
Llamas		All	\$11.81	\$10.95	\$10.25	\$10.71

NOTE: A grazing animal is defined as those species of livestock that, from a nutritional and physiological perspective, satisfy more than 50 percent of their net energy requirement through the consumption of growing forage grasses and legumes, regardless whether or not they are grazing or are present on grazing land or pastureland. Unweaned livestock are not considered a grazing animal and are ineligible for LFP.

The LFP monthly payment rate for losses because of a qualifying drought is calculated at 60 percent of the smaller of the monthly feed cost payment rate per head in the table above or the monthly feed cost based on the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing or pastureland acres.