



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF UPCOMING LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINES

Bozeman, MT (Nov. 20, 2009) –Bruce Nelson, State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding eligible ranchers and livestock producers of the December 10, 2009 deadline for applying for benefits under the provisions of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for losses incurred during calendar year 2008.

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. Fire losses apply only to federally managed rangeland. Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine. For losses due to drought, qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

In order for an LFP applicant to qualify for program benefits, the applicant must have timely filed and obtained Crop Insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. Producers' who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers or ranchers, are waived from purchasing crop insurance or having NAP coverage.

LFP program applicants should note that in addition to risk management provisions, certain payment limitation and adjusted gross income eligibility requirements must be met in order to qualify for livestock disaster program benefits. Please contact your local FSA office for further eligibility requirements.

For more information or to apply for LFP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please contact your local FSA office or logon to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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