



Farm Service Agency



September 2009

USDA Service Center

Wright County FSA
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County Committee

Gale Kinser, Chairperson

Evelyn Livermore-Fisher, Vice-Chairperson

Bonita Raney, Member

Program Technicians

Sue Price
Gale Davis

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

County Executive Director

Clyde Connelly

District Director

James J. Kyle

Livestock Indemnity Program

The 2008 Farm Bill provided another program that we need to make you aware of. Several of our past newsletters has mentioned this program, but we are just now receiving guidelines on how to operate it. The Livestock Indemnity Program or (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that **exceed their normal mortality** rates from eligible disaster events such as losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, tornados, lightning, disease, extreme heat, extreme cold, and earthquakes.

You will not be paid on your normal mortality livestock losses. However, you can expect payment on eligible death losses that exceed your normal mortality loss. For example, the normal mortality rate for an adult beef cow herd in Missouri is 1.5%, This means that in a 100 cow herd you could expect a normal mortality rate of 1.5 cows, which is rounded up to two cows. If you had 8 cows die due to an eligible loss, say they were standing under a tree that was hit by lightening, then we can pay you on the loss of six cows. (Eight cows minus the normal mortality rate of 2 cows) The payment rate for an adult cow for 2008 is \$681.62, so you would receive \$\$4089.72. The payment rate for 2009 on a adult beef cow is \$694..98, so you would receive \$4169.88. By using this same example for an adult dairy cow, the payment rate for 2008 is \$1,380.00, so you would receive \$8280.00 The adult dairy cow payment rate for 2009 is \$1464.38 so you would receive \$786.28. You would not receive a payment on the loss of the livestock that fall under “normal mortality”. We have different mortality rates and payment rates for most all classes of livestock. The payment death loss must be caused by an eligible weather event and not from normal losses such as calving, old age, etc. Any payment received on these losses from any other source, such as an insurance payment, will be deducted from any LIP payment made to you.

*******The Following Dates are Important*******

Date of Livestock Death Notice of Loss Filing Deadline Final Date to Apply

<i>Date of Livestock Death</i>	<i>Notice of Loss Filing Deadline</i>	<i>Final Date to Apply</i>
Calendar Year 2008	September 13, 2009	September 13, 2009
Jan 1 to July 12, 2009	September 13, 2009	January 30, 2010
July 13 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death	January 30, 2010

There are *no late filed provisions* for the LIP program. If for any reason you wait to file your application after the deadline is past, then the county office can’t approve it. We will not refuse to accept a producer’s application, however regulations will not allow us to approve it. The application period is a matter of general applicability to all participants and is not appealable.

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The LIP program is retroactive back to January 1, 2008. Most producers have not informed the county office of their death losses going back to that date, and physical evidence of the deaths probably still isn't available. However, the county office can accept **verifiable documented** evidence of death loss such as rendering truck receipts or certificates, veterinary records, tax records, private insurance documents, bank or other loan documents, purchase records, or production records to name a few. Adequate documentation must be provided that proves the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, producers may provide reliable records, in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records, as proof of death. Reliable records may include, but are not limited to: contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the event, pictures with a date, brand inspection records, dairy herd improvement records, or other similar reliable documents. If a producer is unable to provide verifiable or reliable records as proof of death, then a third party certification can be used. County office and/or county committee general knowledge of an adverse weather event in the area is not acceptable as third party certification under any circumstance.

The third party that is certifying to livestock deaths must complete form FSA-926 stating specific details about how the third party has knowledge of the animal deaths, the telephone number and address of the third party, the number and kind/type and weight range of the participant's livestock that died because of the eligible adverse weather event, and any other details necessary for the county committee and District Director to determine that the certification is acceptable.

Note: The third party must be an independent source who is **not affiliated** with the farming operation such as a hired hand and is not a "family member" defined as a person whom a member in the farming operation or their spouse is related as a lineal ancestor, lineal descendant, sibling, or spouse. Someone hired to do a temporary job such as to put up hay is not considered a hired hand.

Exception: Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and results in the death of eligible livestock. Livestock deaths due to eligible adverse weather events must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, but before October 1, 2011, and in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. **Producers who had losses in 2008 and prior to July 13, 2009, must file a notice of loss and application for payment no later than September 13, 2009.**

Remember---there are no late file provisions!!!!

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of closing.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MILC Income Loss Payment Program

Because of low dairy prices across the country, dairy producers participation in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program are now receiving MILC payments. Wright County continues to be the number 1 dairy county in the State, and we are providing the largest amount of MILC payments to area dairy producers. For the month of February the FSA Office sent checks out in the amount of \$150,024. This amount increased to \$235,054 for the month of March. Payments in April were \$197,303, and the May payment was \$183,883. The June payment was \$193,861. **Total payments to date equal to \$960,125.**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program or CSP will be administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner. Contracts will cover the entire agricultural operation and will be for 5 years. CSP payments will compensate producers for:

- * Installing and adopting additional conservation activities;
- * Improving, maintaining, and managing conservation activities in place at the time of the contract;
- * Adopting resource-conserving crop rotations to achieve beneficial crop rotations.

Is CSP right for you?

- Are you willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities and production system to determine eligibility and ranking?
- Do you have records of your farming activities and are you willing to continue maintaining records to document your conservation activities? Records will be used during NRCS field visits to verify accuracy of application information before contracts are approved.
- Are you ready to enter into a 5 year contract requiring you to apply additional conservation activities and to improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities?

The 2009 CSP sign-up runs from August 10th to September 30th. If you would like to apply or just learn more about this program, contact you local USDA-NRCS office.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wright County FSA
P.O. Box 370
Hartville, MO 65667

Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group as tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm **reconstitution** is necessary. Neither the realtor nor the court house will notify us of these changes. It is up to you to let us know when you buy and sell property in order to allow us to keep our farm records correct.

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

ELAAP provides emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish to aid in the reduction of losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, during the calendar year, that are not covered by the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

Livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish producers who have incurred 2008 and/or 2009 calendar year losses not covered by SURE, LIP, and LFP are advised to begin compiling their loss documentation, if interested in ELAP. Livestock, honey bees, or farm-raised fish producers must provide FSA with verifiable documentation for all losses for which compensation is wanted.

Honey bee producers who incur physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives because of colony collapse disorder must provide documentation and/or a certification that the loss of honey bees was because of colony collapse disorder from one or more of the following: registered entomologist, cooperative extension specialist, or a Land Grant University.

Farm-raised fish producers who incur physical losses of farm-raised fish because of adverse weather or other conditions must provide documentation of beginning inventory on the beginning date of the adverse weather event and the ending inventory.