



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA
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FSA APPROVES ADDITIONAL LOSSES UNDER ELAP

March 26, 2010– Bruce Nelson, State Executive Director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Montana has announced that 2009 grasshopper infestations and wolf depredation losses have been approved as eligible loss conditions under the Emergency Loss Assistance for Farm-Raised Fish and Honey Bees (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, including losses because of blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Grazing losses due to grasshopper infestations in 2009 and livestock death losses due to wolf depredation for 2008 through 2011 were both recently approved as eligible loss conditions under ELAP in Montana.

A late signup period for ELAP is currently on going and will end no later than 14 calendar days after the technical correction is published in the Federal Register. The current estimate for publishing the technical correction in the Federal Register is sometime beginning April 1 so this signup may end as early as mid April.

Producers are reminded that to be eligible for ELAP they must have met the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) by purchasing either RMA Crop Insurance or FSA NAP coverage on every commodity on every farm that they had an interest in for the year of the loss.

As proof of death documentation for wolf depredation, the producer must provide a copy of the Grey Wolf Depredation Investigative Report completed by the USDA Wildlife Services division of APHIS. Both confirmed kills and probable kills as shown on the investigative report will be eligible for reimbursement under ELAP relating to the wolf depredation loss condition.

For further information contact your local FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.