



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) - Honeybee Assistance

OVERVIEW

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) authorized up to \$20 million in a fiscal year (FY) for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The program provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. It covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. The losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The other programs are the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Recipients of ELAP payments may receive a pro-rated reduced payment should the total annual national demand for ELAP exceed \$20 million in a fiscal year.

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

ELIGIBLE HONEYBEES

Eligible honeybees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding. Eligible honeybees do not include wild, feral honeybees, leaf cutter bees or other bee species that are not used for producing honey, pollinating or breeding honeybees.

ELIGIBLE HONEYBEE LOSSES

ELAP provides assistance for the loss of honeybee colonies in excess of normal mortality. It covers damage to honeybee hives and honeybee feed that was purchased or produced for eligible honeybees,

including additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain honeybees until such time that additional feed becomes available.

To be eligible for ELAP payments, honeybee colony, hive and feed losses must be:

- Due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition;
- Incurred by an eligible honeybee producer in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred.

ELIGIBLE ADVERSE WEATHER AND LOSS CONDITIONS

In order to meet the eligibility requirements for ELAP benefits for honeybee colony, hive and feed losses, the losses must be the direct result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including but not limited to, colony collapse disorder (CCD) (colony loss only), earthquake, eligible winter storm (colony loss only), excessive wind, flood, hurricane, lightning, tornado, volcanic eruption or wildfire.

ELIGIBLE PRODUCER

To be eligible for honeybee losses, the producer must have:

- An interest and risk in an eligible honeybee colony for the purposes of producing honey, pollination or breeding operation for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition;
- Suffered an eligible honeybee loss in a county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

HONEYBEE COLONY LOSS PAYMENTS

ELAP compensates eligible honeybee producers for eligible honeybee colony losses that occur in excess of normal mortality because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition during the program year in which benefits are requested. FSA has established a normal mortality rate for honeybee colony losses of 17.5 percent. Payments for honeybee colony losses are based on the average fair market value of honeybee colonies in the program year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. FSA has established average fair market values per honeybee colony for 2012-2014 program years, as provided in the following table.

Program Year	Honeybee Colonies
2012	\$75
2013	\$85
2014	\$80

ELAP payments for honeybee colony losses will be based on a minimum of 75 percent of the result of:

- The number of honeybee colonies lost in excess of normal mortality (17.5 percent) due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, multiplied by
- The average fair market value per honeybee colony for the applicable program year.

HONEYBEE HIVE LOSS PAYMENTS

ELAP compensates eligible honeybee producers for eligible honeybee hive losses that occur because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition during the program year in which benefits are requested. Payments for honeybee hive losses are based on the average fair market value of honeybee hives in the program year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. FSA has established average fair market values per honeybee colony for 2012-2014, as provided in the following table.

Program Year	Honeybee Hives
2012	\$210
2013	\$220
2014	\$230

ELAP payments for honeybee hive losses will be based on a minimum of 75 percent of the result of:

- The number of honeybee hives lost due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, multiplied by
- The average fair market value per honeybee hive, for the applicable program year.

HONEYBEE FEED LOSS PAYMENTS

ELAP compensates eligible honeybee producers based on a minimum of 60 percent of the actual cost of purchased or harvested feed that was intended for honeybees and was damaged because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition. This includes additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain the honeybees for a short time period until additional natural feedstock becomes available.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, LIMITED RESOURCE AND BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Starting with the 2012 program year (Oct. 1, 2011), an eligible honeybee producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or a beginning farmer or rancher, will have their payments for livestock losses under ELAP based on a national payment factor of 90 percent.

PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATIONS

For 2012 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 ELAP, LFP, and LIP combined. The average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of

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average AGI will apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an average adjusted gross income (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive ELAP payments. Direct attribution provisions also apply to ELAP for 2012 and subsequent program years. 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.

The table below provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and application for payment for livestock losses.

For honeybee colony and hive losses, the participant must include proof of inventory at the beginning of the program year and ending inventory immediately after the eligible adverse weather event or loss condition.

Date of Honeybee Loss	Final Date to File Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Program Year 2012 & 2013	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014
Program Year 2014	Nov. 1, 2014	Nov. 1, 2014
Program Year 2015 & Subsequent Program Years	30 days after honeybee loss is apparent	Nov. 1 after the program year in which the loss occurred.

SIGN-UP

Producers can apply to receive ELAP benefits at local FSA service centers beginning April 15, 2014, for eligible honeybee losses suffered during 2012, 2013 and 2014 program years (losses occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2014) due to eligible adverse weather or loss conditions. For 2012 and 2013 program year losses, sign-up ends Aug. 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, sign-up ends Nov. 1, 2014. For 2015 and subsequent program year losses, sign-up will end no later than Nov. 1 after the end of the program year in which the honeybee loss occurred.

APPLYING FOR ELAP

In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered honeybee losses should submit a notice of loss to the local FSA office that maintains their farm records; however, if the local FSA office that maintains the farm records for the honeybee producer is not in close proximity to the physical location where the honeybee loss occurs, the honeybee producer may submit a notice of loss to the local FSA office in the county where the loss occurred.

For honeybee colony losses due to CCD, the participant must provide proof that best management practices are being followed, such as honeybee colonies are provided proper nutrition, preventative treatment for varroa mites and disease, proper maintenance of hive equipment and proper colony management, and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility.

Payments may be made for eligible losses suffered by an eligible participant who is now a deceased individual or is a dissolved entity if a representative who currently has authority to act on behalf of the estate of the deceased participant signs the application for payment. Proof of authority to sign for a deceased individual or dissolved entity must be provided. If a participant is now a dissolved general partnership or joint venture, all members of the general partnership or joint venture at the time of dissolution or their duly authorized representative(s) must sign the application for payment.

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

MORE INFORMATION

To find more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA office or USDA Service Center, or visit the FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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