



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

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Fact Sheet

Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Payment Program (ELRRPP)

**Montana State
Producer Handbook**



Background

The U.S. Sheep Industry has experienced a continual drop in profit and loss in equity. Due to this loss, USDA is providing financial assistance to sheep and lamb producers to encourage the replacement and retention of ewe lamb breeding stock.

Signup Dates

Signup began October 25, 2004. Currently, there is no ending signup date. An application may be submitted any time during the signup period in the county where the sheep and lamb operation is physically located. Producers are encouraged to complete the application process as soon as possible, as late filed applications will not be accepted.

Payments

Payments will be issued at close of signup, as ELRRPP is a limited funded program. Depending on availability of funding, the maximum amount a qualifying operation can receive for each qualifying ewe lamb retained or purchased for breeding purposes will be \$18.

Advanced payments will not be issued.

Eligibility Requirements for Sheep and Lamb Operations

An eligible sheep and lamb operation may include any of the following that are engaged in

raising sheep and lambs for sale in the United States:

- An individual that has beneficial interest in a sheep and lamb operation; is financially involved in the operation; and is a citizen of, or a legal resident, in the United States.
- A corporation, partnership, joint operation, estate, association, cooperative, other business enterprise, or other legal entity and, if applicable, a State, political subdivision or agency of a State; and whose members are citizens or legal residents of the United States.
- A designated Indian tribe
- An Indian organization or entity
- An economic enterprise under the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

Eligible Ewe Lamb and Sheep Operation

To be eligible for benefits the sheep and lamb operation must:

- Have purchased or retained the ewe lambs for breeding purposes between August 1, 2003, and July 31, 2004.
- Have retained the qualifying ewe lamb in the herd for at least 1 complete offspring lambing cycle. One complete offspring lambing cycle is the period from birth to weaning of the offspring produced by the qualifying ewe lamb.
- Be engaged in the business of producing and marketing agricultural products at the time of filing the application.

- Not have received funds under the FSA administered Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistant Program (LMAAP) for the same ewe lamb they are applying for under ELRRPP.
- Certify that the ewe lamb meets all the qualifying characteristics during at least part of the base period.
- Apply for payment during the application period.

Ewe Lamb Requirements

In order for the ewe lamb to be eligible to receive benefits it must:

- Not have been older than 18 months for at least part of the base period.
- Not have produced an offspring before August 1, 2003.
- Be in compliance with all requirements relating to Scrapie, as defined by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Scrapie is a degenerative and eventually fatal disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. A complete definition and identification requirements are listed in 9 CFR Part 79. For further information on Scrapie, contact your local APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office by calling 1-866-873-2824 or by logging on to the **APHIS website at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/scrapie>.**
- At time of certification, the qualifying ewe lamb must not

have possessed parrot mouth, foot rot or scrapie.

Eligibility Requirements for Purchased Ewe Lambs

For ELRRPP purposes, the definition of a purchased ewe lamb are, ewes that are acquired anytime during August 1, 2003, through July 31, 2004 from a seller for a certain amount of money and delivery of the ewe lamb takes place at the time of the monetary exchange.

No marketing agreements for future delivery of lambs purchased after July 31, 2004, will be accepted even if partial or full payment was received before July 31, 2004.

Eligibility Requirements for Retained Ewe Lambs

Retained ewe lambs eligible for ELRRPP are considered qualifying ewe lambs kept in the possession of the sheep and lamb operation during the base period through 1 complete offspring lambing cycle.

Ineligible Ewe Lambs

Any ewe lamb that was born before February 1, 2002, is ineligible for ELRRPP benefits.

Offspring Exception

Sheep and lamb operations that purchased or retained ewe lambs for breeding purposes and that have produced an offspring before the availability of ELRRPP, are eligible for payment as long as the ewe lamb had not produced an offspring prior to the beginning of the qualifying base period and at the same time met all other requirements.

Ewe Lamb Death Loss

Sheep and lamb producers who receive payment for ewe lambs that die before completing the eligibility requirements, must

refund the payments for those lambs when the total deaths exceed 10 percent per program year.

Eligibility for Ewe Lambs That Were Sold Prior to the Availability of ELRRPP

Ewe lambs that were sold before October 25, 2004 are eligible for benefits if all eligibility requirements were met during at least part of the base period and evidence is provided to the local FSA county committee that the qualifying ewe lambs met all eligibility requirements.

Applying for Benefits

Applicants must complete form *FSA-384 EWE Lamb Replacement/Retention Payment Program Application* to apply for ELRRPP benefits. Producers must self-certify that the ewe lambs meet all eligibility requirements. The application form may be obtained by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or by contacting your local FSA county office.

For More Information

For further information on this and other FSA programs, contact your local FSA office, or visit Montana FSA's home page at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

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