



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Farm Service Agency**

March 2005

**Fact Sheet**

**Livestock Assistance  
Program (LAP)**

**Montana State  
Producer Handbook**



**Background**

The Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) is authorized under the Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2005 to provide direct payments to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to natural disasters that occurred in calendar year 2003 or 2004.

**Signup Period**

Signup for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) will begin March 14, 2005. The ending date for the program will be announced when it is set.

**Eligible Grazing Lands**

The grazing land must be located in a county that was declared a primary disaster area under a Presidential or Secretarial declaration. Contiguous counties are not eligible. In addition to the disaster declaration, the county must have suffered at least a 40 percent grazing loss for three or more consecutive months in a calendar year in order to be eligible for that year. A county may meet eligibility requirements for both 2003 and 2004; however, a producer must choose only **one** year to receive benefits for.

**Eligible Counties**

The following counties have both a primary county disaster declaration and were approved by the FSA

State Committee with a 40 percent or greater dryland grazing loss:

**For 2003** - Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, partial Carter, partial Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Flathead, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Petroleum, Pondera, Prairie, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, and Yellowstone.

**For 2004** - Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, partial Glacier, partial McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland, and Wibaux.

**Producer Eligibility  
Requirements**

To receive benefits, producers must meet all of the following requirements for the year they have chosen to receive benefits for:

- Owned or leased grazing land in the approved county during the applicable year;
- Suffered a 40 percent or greater grazing loss for three consecutive months during the approved LAP period;
- Must possess beneficial and financial interests in eligible livestock that have been owned or leased for at least three months;
- Meet either of the following:
  - Possess beneficial interest, financial interest in eligible

livestock and be a citizen or a legal resident alien in the US;

- Entity whose majority interest is held by citizens or legal resident aliens in the United States, provided the entity owns eligible livestock; or
- Be an Indian Tribe;

The Act requires that a Gross Revenue Limit of \$2.5 million will apply. A \$40,000 payment limitation also applies.

**Eligible Livestock**

Eligible livestock must have been owned or leased 1) during the applicable LAP period; or 2) for at least three months.

The following livestock are eligible if used for human food or to produce food or fiber on the owner's farm:

- Beef and dairy cattle
- Buffalo and beefalo when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle;
- Sheep
- Goats
- Swine (pigs, hogs, etc.)
- Equine animals such as draft horses, cow ponies, and breeding horses
- Elk and Reindeer when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle

**Note:** *Livestock sold because of natural disaster conditions during the year LAP is requested may be considered eligible for LAP payment for the entire payment period for that year, if all other eligibility requirements are met.*

## ***How to Participate***

To participate in LAP, producers must:

1. Complete form CCC-740 (Livestock Assistance Program Application).
2. Provide the number, kind of livestock, and weight range of livestock owned or leased during the year chosen to receive LAP benefits for, and the producer's share in those livestock.
3. Acres, location, and type of grass or forage used to support eligible livestock in year chosen to receive benefits for.
4. An estimated percentage of producer's loss of grazing for year chosen to receive benefits for and information regarding significant changes in livestock numbers, including dates when the changes occurred.

## ***Eligible Grazing Land and Forage Types***

Eligible grazing land includes:

- Non-irrigated native and improved grasses reported to FSA
- Cash leased on a per acre basis
- State and federal land if lessee cash leases or is required to maintain over a long period of time
- Previously irrigated land not irrigated in 2003 or 2004 due to lack of water beyond the producer's control

Eligible forage includes:

- Native, open and wooded range;
- Improved, mixed forage, grass and vetch;

- Sorghum forage

## **For Additional Information**

Additional information may be obtained at local FSA offices or through the Montana FSA Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication 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, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.