



## USDA Reminds Livestock Producers of Disaster Assistance Application Deadline for 2024 Losses

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### **Dairy Producers Having Milk Loss Due to H5N1, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Producers Also Eligible**

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 2025** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers, including dairy producers impacted by H5N1, that the deadline to apply for financial assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) is Jan. 30, 2025, for losses due to specific adverse conditions that occurred in 2024.

"USDA recognizes the broad scope of production risk our farmers and ranchers face every day. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program provides an important financial safety net, helping our producers rebound from weather and disease impacts that are out of their control and are not part of their operation's ordinary risk profile," said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency. "These events threaten producers' economic viability, and so it's important USDA provide support. Producers who were negatively impacted in calendar year 2024 must submit an ELAP notice of loss and application for assistance by Jan. 30, 2025."

ELAP provides emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to assist with losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as wildfires, that are not covered by other FSA disaster assistance programs. In July 2024, USDA established ELAP eligibility for dairy producers who incur milk losses resulting from reduced milk production when cattle are removed from commercial milking in dairy herds due to positive H5N1 tests.

To date, USDA has provided more than \$80 million in ELAP assistance to help H5N1-impacted dairy producers offset the cost of lost milk production. As of Jan. 8, 2025, there are active known detections of H5N1 in dairy herds in two states (California and Texas), though ELAP assistance has reached producers in 16 states who have faced infections at some point during the outbreak. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service maintains an [interactive map](#) showing states with current and past detections.

#### **ELAP Eligible Losses**

ELAP provides recovery assistance for:

- livestock feed and grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands;
- livestock feed losses caused by an eligible loss condition that resulted in purchased or mechanically harvested feed being destroyed, additional feed purchased above normal and additional cost of feed delivery;
- losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought;
- above normal costs of hauling feed to livestock and hauling livestock to forage or other grazing acres due to a qualifying drought;
- losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock for treatment and/or inspection related to cattle tick fever;
- honeybee feed, colony and hive losses due to colony collapse disorder, eligible adverse weather and other conditions;
- farm-raised fish feed and death losses due to eligible disease, adverse weather and other qualifying conditions; and,
- loss of income when removing dairy cattle from commercial milking due to positive H5N1 test confirmed by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

## **Dairy H5N1 Eligibility**

Dairy producers are reminded eligible adult dairy cattle under this new H5N1 provision of ELAP must be maintained for commercial milk production and be currently lactating. Assistance is available for up to 120 days after the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test. Producers submitting an application for assistance under this provision, if their 120-day impact period starts in 2024 and extends into 2025, will need to submit a notice of loss and application for payment by Jan. 30, 2025, for the days impacted in 2024, and then submit a notice of loss and application for payment for the remainder of the 120 days that occur in 2025.

Producers must submit two applications for payments based on the applicable calendar year losses.

## **Other ELAP Loss Conditions and Payments**

Eligible adverse weather or loss conditions under ELAP include, but are not limited to, blizzards, drought, winter storms, excessive wind, floods, hail (grazing loss only), hurricane, lightning, tidal surge and tornado. Not all eligible loss conditions are applicable to all categories of ELAP assistance, and producers are encouraged to visit with their county FSA office for more information. Payments are based on a percentage of the fair market value of the livestock, honeybees, or fish lost, or the cost of feed and water shortages.

Producers are responsible for providing verifiable documentation of losses and the conditions causing the loss. This may include veterinary records, feed purchase receipts, and other supporting documents.

For more ELAP information, visit [ELAP for Livestock](#); [ELAP for Honeybees](#); [ELAP for Farm-raised Fish](#) and [ELAP for H5N1-impacted dairies](#).

Producers interested in applying for ELAP assistance for calendar year 2024 should contact FSA at their nearest USDA Service Center by the Jan. 30, 2025, deadline. To find a Service Center visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## More Information

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).

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