USDA Offers Program Flexibilities for Texas Agricultural Producers Impacted by Recent Flooding

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Texas

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, August 12, 2025 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is adding flexibilities to its disaster assistance programs to better help agricultural producers in Texas significantly impacted by recent flooding.

USDA Disaster Assistance

Flood-impacted producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure, and livestock losses and damages.

Producers who experience livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality or sell injured livestock at a reduced price may be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). FSA is adding flexibility for LIP assistance to include the sale of injured livestock as well as contract growers of poultry and swine. FSA has issued guidance to FSA County Committees and local staff to exercise maximum flexibility in determining acceptable loss documentation and to ensure LIP applications are acted on timely. See full list of flexibilities. To participate in LIP, producers should be prepared to provide acceptable documentation and a notice of loss to the FSA no later than March 2, 2026, for 2025 calendar year losses.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides eligible producers with compensation for feed and grazing losses. FSA is also authorizing assistance with the above normal costs to transport livestock to feed and transport feed, forage and water to livestock. For ELAP, producers are required to complete a notice of loss and submit a payment application to their local FSA office no later than the annual program application deadline, March 2, 2026, for 2025 calendar year losses.

Additionally, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes or vines. TAP complements the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases. FSA is waiving on-site inspections when loss can be verified by other means as well as other flexibilities. For TAP, a program application must be filed within 90 days of the disaster event or the date when the loss of the trees,

bushes or vines is apparent.

"Impacted producers should timely report all crop, livestock and farm infrastructure damages and losses to their local FSA county office as soon as possible," said Erasmo "Eddie" Trevino, Deputy State Executive Director for FSA in Texas. "As you evaluate your operation, take time to gather important documents you will need to get assistance, including farm records, herd inventory, receipts and pictures of damages or losses."

FSA also offers a variety of direct and guaranteed farm loans, including operating and emergency farm loans, to producers unable to secure commercial financing. Producers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help producers replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or re-finance farm-related debts and other needs.

Additionally, FSA offers several loan servicing options available for borrowers who are unable to make scheduled payments on their farm loan programs debt to the agency because of reasons beyond their control.

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing so producers can build, repair, replace or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Loan terms vary from three to 12 years. Producers who incurred damage to or loss of their equipment or infrastructure funded by the FSFL program should contact their insurance agent and their local USDA Service Center. Producers in need of on-farm storage should also contact USDA.

FSFL borrowers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation due to flooding who are experiencing a financial hardship can request an annual installment deferral that extends the next installment due date by one year.

Risk Management

Producers with NAP coverage should report crop damage to their local FSA office and must file a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours. As an added flexibility for flood-impacted producers, FSA has the authority to waive the 72-hour notification requirement for had-harvested crop losses.

Producers with risk protection through Federal Crop Insurance should report crop damage to their crop insurance agent within 72 hours of discovering damage and be sure to follow up in writing within 15 days.

"Crop insurance and other USDA risk management options are offered to help producers manage risk because we never know what nature has in store for the future," said James Bellmon, Director of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) Regional Office that covers Texas. "The Approved Insurance Providers, loss adjusters and agents are experienced and well-trained in handling these types of events."

Conservation

Outside of the primary nesting season, emergency and non-emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by recent flooding. Producers interested in haying or grazing of CRP acres should contact their FSA county office to determine eligibility.

FSA's Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) can assist landowners with financial and technical assistance to restore fencing, damaged farmland, and remove debris from feed stocks, water supplies and feeding areas. ECP provides cost-share and technical assistance to producers to restore farmland to pre-disaster conditions. FSA is accepting ECP applications in 20 counties to address damages from severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding. The following counties are eligible for ECP assistance: Burnet, Coke, Concho, Gillespie, Lampasas, Llano, Kerr, Kendall, Kimble, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Real, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, and Williamson counties. More details, including deadlines, are available in the August 12 ECP announcement.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is always available to provide technical assistance during the recovery process by assisting producers to plan and implement conservation practices on farms and working forests impacted by natural disasters. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can help producers plan and implement conservation practices on land impacted by natural disasters. This includes help with emergency animal mortality disposal.

Because of the need to dispose of livestock quickly to mitigate environmental and disease impacts, flood-impacted producers can begin disposing of livestock once an initial application is submitted. The initial application includes a call, letter or email to NRCS with producer name; farm location address; farm number, if available; phone number; and estimated number and type of livestock.

"The Natural Resources Conservation Service can be a very valuable partner to help landowners with their recovery and resiliency efforts," said Kristy Oates, NRCS State Conservationist in Texas. "Our staff will work one-on-one with landowners to make assessments of the damages and develop approaches that focus on effective recovery of the land."

Assistance for Communities

Additional NRCS programs include the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, which assists local government sponsors with the cost of addressing watershed impairments or hazards such as debris removal and streambank stabilization.

Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, towns or any federally recognized Native American tribe or tribal organization. Sponsors must submit a formal request (by mail or email) to the NRCS state conservationist for assistance within 60 days of the natural disaster occurrence or 60 days from the date when access to the sites become available. For more information sponsors should please contact their local NRCS office.

More Information

USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including available flexibilities and other USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by flooding. Those resources include the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, Loan Assistance Tool, and Natural Disasters and Crop Insurance fact sheet. Additionally, FarmRaise offers an FSA educational hub with LIP and ELAP decision tools as well as farm loan resource videos. For FSA and NRCS programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.

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