



Farm Service Agency

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

South Carolina FSA Newsletter for Farmers and Ranchers - June 2025

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A Note from State Executive Director Cody Simpson



Dear Fellow South Carolina Farmers,

Your Farm Service Agency (FSA) Team has been hard at work putting our Farmers First. We have been enjoying our visits to your farms and your local FSA county offices. Your wisdom and firsthand accounts on the farm are important to us. We are committed to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins' mission to provide the much-needed supplemental disaster assistance programs to our producers.

With summer upon us, please remember to stay hydrated. The 2025 hurricane season officially began June 1 and is most common during the six-month period from now to Nov.

30. Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners have been significantly impacted by hurricanes in recent years, especially in 2024. We are still recovering in some affected areas. USDA encourages agricultural producers to prepare for the 2025 season and get familiar with [USDA recovery resources](#).

FSA recently issued \$1 billion in payments to eligible livestock producers through the [Emergency Livestock Relief Program \(ELRP\)](#) for losses due to qualifying drought and wildfire occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024. Your FSA is leveraging existing Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) data to streamline payment calculations and

expedite relief, and emergency relief payments are automatically issued to producers who have an approved LFP application on file for 2023 and/or 2024. To date, nearly \$4 million in ELRP benefits has been paid to disaster livestock producers in South Carolina. I am proud of the work performed by our team on behalf of you and your families. For current information regarding 2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance (including the General Block Grant authority for South Carolina), please visit [here](#).

The nomination period for [FSA County Committee \(COC\) Elections](#) began on June 16 and runs until Aug. 1. I encourage all producers to participate in this important process. FSA County Committees make impactful decisions about how federal farm programs are administered in our local communities. Producers interested in serving on your FSA County Committee can locate their Local Administrative Area (LAA) through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office. **All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.**

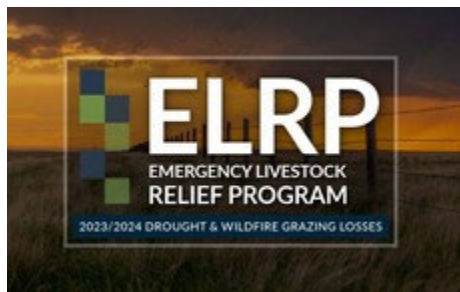
Lastly, remember to complete your [crop acreage reports](#) before the applicable deadline. We are expected to certify roughly two million acres of working farmland in our great state. **July 15 is a major deadline for most crops**, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and each crop. You can contact their [local FSA county office](#) for acreage reporting deadlines that are specific to your county.

Thank you for serving the citizens of South Carolina. We will continue to support you out in your fields and beloved communities. Your dedication and stewardship of the land is to be commended. I look forward to visiting with you and your family soon.

Yours truly,

W.R. Cody Simpson, III
FSA State Executive Director

USDA to Provide \$1 Billion to Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire in 2023 and 2024



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the release of Congressionally mandated Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) payments to cover grazing losses due to eligible drought or wildfire events in 2023 and/or 2024. Secretary Rollins committed on May 7 to release these emergency payments by May 30, and today she is delivering on that commitment ahead of schedule.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is leveraging existing Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) data to streamline payment calculations and expedite relief. Emergency relief payments are automatically issued for producers who have an approved LFP application on file for 2023 and/or 2024.

The *American Relief Act, 2025*, provided funds for emergency relief payments. This program is the first of two programs authorized to assist with eligible losses suffered by livestock producers. FSA will announce additional ELRP assistance for other losses authorized by the Act, including flooding, later this summer.

ELRP Eligibility

ELRP payment eligibility requires livestock producers to have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during 2023, 2024 or both calendar years, and have applied and been approved for LFP. Additionally, producers whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was reduced due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP, if they applied and were approved for LFP in 2023, 2024 or both calendar years.

To streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP benefits, producers are not required to submit an application for payment; however, they must have the following forms on file with FSA:

- CCC-853, *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application*
- [Form AD-2047](#), *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- [Form CCC-902](#), *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- [Form CCC-901](#), *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable). This form is required to be on file for both 2023 and 2024 to be eligible for the payment limitation exception.
- [SF-3881](#), *Direct Deposit*.
- [AD-1026](#), *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, likely have these forms on file. However, those who are uncertain and want to confirm the status of their forms, can contact their [local FSA county office](#).

ELRP Payment Calculation

To expedite payments to eligible livestock producers, determine eligibility, and calculate an ELRP payment, FSA uses livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported by the producer on the CCC-853, *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application* form, for 2023, 2024 or both calendar years.

ELRP payments will be equal to the eligible livestock producer's gross LFP calculated payment for the calendar year multiplied by an ELRP 2023 or 2024 payment factor to determine the total gross ELRP payments for 2023 and/or 2024. The initial payment factor for 2023 and 2024 ELRP payments is 35%. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Timeline

USDA is fully committed to expediting remaining disaster assistance provided by the *American Relief Act, 2025*. On May 7, we launched our [2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page](#) where the status of USDA disaster assistance and block grant rollout timeline can be tracked. The page is updated regularly and accessible through fsa.usda.gov.

The Act also authorized \$10 billion in economic loss assistance to producers of covered commodities based on 2024 planted and prevented planted acres. To date, USDA has delivered more than \$7.7 billion to producers through the [Emergency Commodity Assistance Program \(ECAP\)](#). The ECAP deadline is Aug. 15, 2025. Contact your local FSA county office for information.

To learn more visit the [ELRP website](#).

Nominations Now Open for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on USDA Farm Service Agency County Committees



Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and ranchers to serve on local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025.

Elections for committee members will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction and may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

Producers interested in serving on the FSA county committee can locate their LAA through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office.

Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they:

- Participate or cooperate in a USDA program.
- Reside in the LAA that is up for election this year.

A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages all eligible producers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agriculture community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recovery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Urban and Suburban County Committees

FSA urban county committees work to promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production practices. Urban committee members are nominated and elected to serve by local urban producers in the same jurisdiction. Urban county committee members provide outreach to ensure urban producers understand USDA programs, serve as the voice of other urban producers and assist in program implementation that support the needs of growing urban communities.

The 27 cities with urban county committees are listed at fsa.usda.gov/elections and farmers.gov/urban.

More Information

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an FSA-669A nomination form. This form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by the Aug. 1, 2025, deadline. Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November 2025.

Gear Up for the 2025 Hurricane Season



Hurricane season is here, beginning June 1 and running through Nov. 30. Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners have been significantly impacted by hurricanes in recent years. USDA encourages agricultural producers to prepare for the 2025 season and get familiar with recovery resources.

USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA), [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS), and [Risk Management Agency](#) (RMA) offer a suite of disaster assistance programs to help you recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

Get Prepared

USDA Reminds South Carolina Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

After spring planting is complete, agricultural producers in South Carolina should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office to complete crop acreage reports before the applicable deadline.

How to File a Report

A [crop acreage report](#) documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch, its intended use and location. Producers should file an accurate crop acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage before the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in South Carolina:

Crops	Crop Reporting Dates
Honey	January 2
Apples, Blueberries, Canola, Peaches, Fall-Seeded Small Grains	January 15
Tomatoes (Planted 3/15-4/30)	May 15
Ornamental Nursery	May 31
All other crops, Perennial Forage, Sesame, Mixed Forage (SSG)	July 15
CRP	July 15
Hemp	July 31
Tomatoes (Planted 7/1-7/15), Peppers	August 15
Value-loss and controlled environment crops (except Nursery) ex: Turfgrass Sod, Floriculture, Mushrooms	September 30
Apiculture	November 15
Clams	November 30

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county. Contact your local FSA office for a list of acreage reporting deadlines by crop.

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended crop use
- Number of crop acres
- Map with approximate crop boundaries
- Planting date(s)
- Planting pattern, when applicable

- Producer share(s)
- Irrigation practice(s)
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable
- Other required information

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting deadline, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting deadline, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the acreage reporting date or 15 calendar days before grazing or crop harvesting begins, whichever is earlier.

Producers with perennial forage crops should check with their local FSA office to see if their crops are eligible for continuous certification, which rolls the certified acreage forward each year until a change is made.

Prevented Planted Acreage

Producers should also report the crop acreage they intended to plant but were unable to because of a natural disaster, including drought. Prevented planted acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Farmers.gov Portal

Producers can access their FSA farm records, maps, and common land units through the farmers.gov customer portal. The portal allows producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries within farm records mapping. Producers can view, print and label their maps for acreage reporting purposes. A login.gov account that is linked to a USDA customer record is required to use the portal.

Producers can visit farmers.gov/account to learn more about creating an account. Producers who have the authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via an FSA-211 *Power of Attorney* form, Business Partner Signature Authority or as a member of a business can now access information for the business in the farmers.gov portal.

Electronic Geospatial Acreage Reporting

Acreage reports using precision agriculture planting boundaries can be filed electronically with an approved insurance provider or an authorized third-party provider, who will then

share the file with FSA staff. Producers should notify their local FSA office if they submitted an electronic geospatial acreage report containing precision planting boundaries that they want to use as part of their FSA acreage report.

More Information

For more information, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Designates 2 South Carolina Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Six Contiguous Counties in SC Also Eligible for Assistance

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through [emergency loans](#). Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Impacted Area: South Carolina

Triggering Disaster: Drought

Application Deadline: 02/02/2026

Primary Counties Eligible: Berkeley and Charleston.

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible:

South Carolina: Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Orangeburg and Williamsburg.

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Loan Assistance Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Livestock Producers in Charleston, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry Counties Are Eligible for Drought Recovery Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Charleston, Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry is now accepting applications for the [Livestock Forage](#)

[Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#) for grazing losses due to drought. The deadline to apply for 2025 LFP assistance is March 2, 2026.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. For LFP, qualifying drought intensity levels are determined using the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#). Producers in Charleston and Berkeley Counties are eligible to apply for 2025 LFP benefits for grazing losses on full season improved mixed pasture, full season improved pasture, and native pasture. Georgetown and Horry Counties are eligible to apply for 2025 LFP benefits for grazing losses on full season improved mixed pasture, full season improved pasture, long season small grains, and native pasture. Visit the [FSA LFP webpage](#) for a full list of eligible counties and pasture types.

Livestock eligible for LFP include alpacas, beef cattle, bison, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, ostriches, reindeer, or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland. Recently, FSA updated LFP policy to expand program eligibility to include additional income producing grazing animals, like horses and ostrich, that contribute to the commercial viability of an agricultural operation.

Livestock used for hunting and consumption by the owner and horses and other animals that are used or intended to be used for racing and wagering remain ineligible.

As a reminder, producers who want to participate in many USDA programs including disaster assistance programs like LFP, must file timely acreage reports by filling out the FSA-578 form to remain eligible for program benefits. Livestock producers interested in applying LFP should contact Charleston/Berkeley, Georgetown, and Horry County FSA at with any questions about the eligibility of specific livestock and forage crops.

More information in USDA disaster assistance is available at farmers.gov/recover.

Applying for Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$10,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

For help preparing the application forms, visit fsa.usda.gov.

Celebrating 25 Years of USDA's Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is celebrating 25 years of the agency's popular Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) this month. For a quarter century, family-owned agricultural operations have received low-interest financing through the program to enhance or expand their operations and manage marketing of the commodities they produce by building or upgrading permanent and portable storage facilities and purchasing needed handling equipment.

"Participating in FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loans program provides producers affordable financing that allows them to build an on-farm storage system the right way from day one — a system that provides grain handling capacity for years to come," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Many people think of grain storage when they hear on-farm commodity storage, but the reality is, the program has expanded over the past quarter century to include a variety of storage and handling options including bins, cold storage, trucks and more, all designed to help agricultural producers take their commodities from field to facility to the end user."

The FSFL program was created in May 2000 to address existing on-farm grain storage needs. Since the program's inception, more than 40,000 loans have been issued for on-farm storage, increasing storage capacity by one billion bushels. While many producers primarily associate the program with grain storage, over the past 25 years the eligible storage has expanded to include a wide variety of facilities and related equipment - new or used and permanent or portable - including hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying, handling and storage equipment is also eligible, including skid steers and storage and handling trucks.

Eligibility

Eligible commodities for storage loans include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, hemp, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, seed cotton, wool, maple sap, maple syrup, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, unprocessed meat and poultry, rye and aquaculture. Most recently, controlled atmosphere storage was added as an eligible facility and [bison meat](#) has been also added to the list of eligible commodities.

FSFL is an excellent financing program to address on-farm storage and handling needs for small and mid-sized farms, and for new farmers. Loan terms vary from three to 12 years. The maximum loan amount for storage facilities is \$500,000. The maximum loan amount for storage and handling trucks is \$100,000. In 2016, FSA introduced a new storage loan category, the microloan, for loans with an aggregate balance up to \$50,000. Microloans offer a 5% downpayment requirement, compared to a 15% downpayment for a regular FSFL, and microloans waive the regular three-year production history requirement.

How to apply

Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA county office that maintains a producer's farm records. Producers can contact their [FSA County Office](#) to make an appointment. Beginning farmers who haven't worked with FSA can visit farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers for more information or view the [New Farmers Fact Sheet](#).

More information

For more information, visit the [FSFL webpage](#), view the [fact sheet](#) and our [Ask the Expert Blog](#), or contact your [FSA County Office](#).

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