



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Overview

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage of native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or acreage planted specifically for grazing. The Working Families Tax Cuts Act lowers the drought threshold for producers to qualify for assistance based on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Grazing losses must occur on land physically located in a county experiencing a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

LFP also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who are prohibited by a federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire. The qualifying drought and qualifying grazing losses, and/or notification of prohibition to graze Federal land due to fire, must have occurred in the grazing period and crop year. For grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency, an eligible livestock producer may elect to receive assistance for losses due to eligible drought conditions or fire conditions, if applicable, but not both. LFP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligible Counties for Drought and Payment Rates

An eligible livestock producer who, as a grazed forage crop producer, owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least four consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to one monthly payment;
- D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least seven of eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to two monthly payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least four weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to four monthly payments; or

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- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (not necessarily four consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.

A map of eligible counties for LFP drought can be found at fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index.

LFP payment rates can be found at fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index.

Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock are grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of forage grasses or legumes and include such species as alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, ostrich, reindeer, sheep and water buffalo.

Within those species animals that are eligible include those that are or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland:

- During the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county; or
- When the federal agency prohibited the livestock producer from having livestock graze the normally permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to fire.

Eligible Livestock must:

- Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or up to two production years immediately preceding the current production year if there is a systemic drought condition.
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation including, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or livestock used for hunting, racing or wagering, or consumption by the owner; and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock producer grower.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for LFP, persons or legal entities must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership of U.S. citizens, a legal entity organized under State law, or an Indian tribe or tribal organization defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act that:

- Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire;
- Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land as of the date of the qualifying drought or fire that is either:
 - Physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county; or
 - Rangeland managed by a federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normally permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire.
- Certify that they have suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire; and
- Timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed.

**Payments**

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses due to a qualifying drought equal to payment factors of one, two, four or five times the LFP monthly payment rate. Payment rates are announced annually in April and can be found at fsa.usda.gov/lfp. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost:

- For all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer; or
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer.

Total LFP payments to an eligible livestock producer in a calendar year for grazing losses will not exceed five monthly payments for the same kind, type, and weight range of livestock.

In the case of an eligible livestock producer who sold or otherwise disposed of livestock because of drought conditions in one or both of the two previous production years immediately preceding the current production year, the payment rate will equal 80 percent of the monthly payment rate.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for eligible livestock producers for losses suffered because of a qualifying fire on federally managed rangeland for which the producer is prohibited from grazing the normally permitted livestock. The payment begins on the first day the permitted livestock are prohibited from grazing the eligible rangeland and ending on the earlier of the last day of the federal lease of the eligible livestock producer or the day that would make the period a 180 calendar-day period. The payment rate is 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the livestock producer is prohibited from having livestock graze the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire, not to exceed 180 calendar days. For current LFP payment rates, visit fsa.usda.gov/resources/disaster-recovery/livestock-forage-disaster-program-lfp.

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Payment Limitation

The Agriculture Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) established a maximum annual per person and legal entity payment limitation for LFP (without regard to any other program) of \$125,000.

Therefore, for 2019 and subsequent program years, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total in payments under LFP. The average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation relating to limits on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of AGI will apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive LFP payments.

Producers are exempt from the \$900,000 average AGI cap for LFP if at least 75% of their average gross income is from farming, ranching, or silviculture, including agri-tourism, direct-to-consumer sales, and certain equipment sales. Producers must complete the CCC-943, 75% of Average Gross Income from Farming, Ranching or Forestry Certification, to be eligible for the AGI exception.

Direct attribution provisions apply to LFP. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity. To learn more, visit the Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations fact sheet at fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations.

Enrollment

Eligible livestock producers who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their FSA office by March 1 after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

Contract growers must include a copy of the grower contract and any other supporting documents required for determining contract grower eligibility. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss and that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased.

If a loss of grazing was due to a fire that the eligible livestock producer was prohibited by the federal agency from having livestock graze the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a fire supporting documentation received from that federal agency must be provided.

FSA will use data provided by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Without all required supporting documentation and data, the application will not be able to be approved and benefits cannot be provided.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. To find more information about FSA disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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