



# DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) [Disaster Assistance programs](#) are available for those impacted by adverse weather including flooding, drought, and other conditions which might impact infrastructure and/or access to animals. The FSA offers Disaster Assistance segmented by production type, each with specific eligibility requirements. Determining which program is most appropriate for a producer is the first step. Producers are encouraged to contact their [local FSA office](#) to begin the process. The FSA has local offices and agents throughout Nevada to help producers with their specific needs. In addition to FSA assistance, relief programs and resources may also be available through the [USDA Risk Management Agency](#) (RMA), [Natural Resource and Conservation Service](#) (NRCS), the [Nevada Department of Agriculture](#) (NDA), and other organizations. Below is general information and guidance on relief programs and resources. The [USDA Disaster Assistance Tool](#) is helpful in navigating the various programs that can assist during a disaster. The tool can be found at: [farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool](https://farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool). Producers facing resource gaps or challenges, are encouraged to reach out to the NDA at [NDAEmergency@agri.nv.gov](mailto:NDAEmergency@agri.nv.gov) to find solutions.

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The [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish](#) (ELAP) provides assistance for eligible producers who have experienced livestock feed losses due to natural disasters such as adverse weather and drought. Natural disasters on federally managed land are not eligible and must occur on private lands for ELAP to cover losses. There is additional assistance provided for feed transportation for impacted ranchers. Under the revised policy for feed transportation cost assistance, eligible ranchers will be reimbursed 60% of feed transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed 90% of the feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

There is also assistance available for water transportation, but not for the cost of water. This program can provide eligible producers with compensation for expenses associated with transporting water to livestock located in counties with at least eight consecutive weeks of D2 Severe Drought, D3 Extreme Drought or greater as defined by the US Drought Monitor.

*Examples of covered ELAP losses: Grazing losses, feed purchased above normal pricing or quantity, damaged feed, snow removal expenses, feed transportation, livestock transportation, etc.*

The FSA requests a notice of loss within 30 calendar days\* of when the loss is first apparent. Deadline to submit application for payment is Jan. 30, 2024.

The [Emergency Conservation Program](#) (ECP) is available to help repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and adverse weather, and to assist with approved methods for water conservation during periods of severe drought. All counties in Nevada are currently eligible due to extensions of the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation as of March 2023. The eligibility period will continue until the disaster designation is lifted.

The FSA County Committee will inspect the damaged land to determine eligibility for ECP. For land to qualify for ECP funds, the damage from the natural disaster or severe drought must create new conservation problems that, if not addressed, would:

- Further damage the land;
- Significantly affect the land's productive capacity;
- Represent damage from a natural disaster unusual for the area (an exception to this is damage from wind erosion); and/or
- Be too costly to repair without Federal assistance in order to return the land to agricultural production.

Conservation problems that existed before the disaster or severe drought are ineligible for ECP assistance. Technical assistance to address agriculture land conservation problems may also be provided by the NRCS.

*Examples of covered ECP losses: Damage caused to farmlands by natural disasters and adverse weather such as winter storms, flooding drought, etc.*

Disaster impacts should be reported to the FSA as soon as impacts are apparent. Application sign-up period varies by county. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

[Emergency Farm Loans](#) are also available for producers in need of emergency funding and provide recovery from production and physical losses experienced due to drought, flooding, adverse weather and other natural disasters. In order to be eligible, a producer must own or operate land located in a county with a Disaster Designation and have experienced at least 30% loss in crop production or physical loss in livestock. FSA loans are different from private lenders and require borrowers to operate with a farm plan developed and agreed upon with their local FSA office.

The use of the Emergency Farm Loan can cover the costs for essential family living expenses, restore or replace essential property, reorganization of farming operations, and/or pay for all or part of the production costs associated with the disaster year.

*Example: Reorganizing of farming operations can mean changing enterprises, production practices, marketing methods, or other parts of the farm business to promote recovery from the disaster and reduce the potential impact of any future disasters. A producer that had severe drought or flood damage to a field that caused a loss of 30% or more in production yield can shift from row crop to vegetable production. They could also purchase grain drying and storage equipment to facilitate better marketing. Any operational changes are acceptable if a realistic farm operating plan indicates the changes will improve the financial viability of the farm.*



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The [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#) is available for drought-affected land planted for grazing that has suffered a loss from natural disaster including adverse weather or drought. All counties in Nevada are currently eligible due to the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation extensions as of March 2023 and will continue until the disaster designation is lifted.

The LFP provides payments to:

- Eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock AND
- Who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing) that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

*Example: A cow-calf producer experienced drought and/or fire on their land, causing loss of feed and forage areas. Adverse weather conditions compounded the problem making it difficult to buy and distribute additional feed and the producer decided to sell the cow-calf pairs in February. They owned the land and the cows in the 60 days leading up to the weather event. They have sales receipts for the pairs as commercial purpose livestock. They filed an acreage report when they realized that they are eligible for an LFP payment if they didn't already have one on file. Assuming they met all the requirements they would receive a payment. The LFP payment = head x payment rate per head x payment months.*

Check with your local FSA office to see if your county is eligible. The deadline to submit application for payment is Jan. 30, 2024.

The [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) is available to cover losses of hay and grasses intended for food or livestock and that aren't eligible for private crop insurance or insurance provided through RMA. NAP insurance must have already been purchased for the 2023 year to be eligible. The NAP application period is open for coverage of future grazing season. There is no retroactive coverage, so producers will want to apply as soon as they can. Applications can be completed at their local FSA office.

The damaging weather must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest, and must directly affect eligible crop(s).

The FSA requests a notice of loss within 72 hours for value loss crops or within 15 days\* of when the loss is first apparent for all other crops. Deadline to submit application for payment is no later than 60 calendar days\* after the coverage period ends for any NAP covered and insured crop.

The [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#) provides assistance to livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality rates caused by eligible loss conditions, including adverse weather. In addition, LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.

*Examples of covered LIP losses: Livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality as a direct result of an eligible loss condition such as winter storms, freezing temperatures, flooding, etc.*

The FSA requests a notice of loss within 30 calendar days\* of when the loss is first apparent. Deadline to submit application for payment is Feb. 29, 2024.

## NDA HELP AND RESOURCES

Some of the resources available to producers are managed by USDA agencies—the FSA, the NRCS and the RMA. Understanding the disaster designations and the timelines for submitting impact reports can also be confusing when unfamiliar with disaster assistance programs. Additionally, drought programs available from NRCS can be proactive instead of reactive which can greatly reduce drought impacts from future drought events. Knowing the difference can save producers a lot of time depending on their needs. Producers that are having difficulty navigating the resources available to them can reach out to [NDAEmergency@agri.nv.gov](mailto:NDAEmergency@agri.nv.gov).

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## CONTACT

Resources are continually being developed as producer needs evolve. The USDA [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) website and your [local FSA office](#) will have the most up-to-date resources available.

Producers unsure of where to start, needing assistance determining which programs are best for them or looking to plan ahead are encouraged to contact:

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**  
NDAEmergency@agri.nv.gov  
[agri.nv.gov](https://agri.nv.gov)

\*FSA policy asks producers to report the notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. However, in some cases there is authority to approve any eligible losses that are submitted beyond that. Some producers may be reporting losses that are applicable to multiple programs or reporting additional losses. We just ask that producers report as soon as they are able so we may begin offering assistance.

\*\*Additionally, livestock numbers and data related to expenses incurred are not immediately needed when reporting losses. This can come at a later time, but prior to the application for payment deadline.