



USDA details eligibility and rules for Livestock Forage Disaster Program

By Agri-Pulse Staff

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Washington, Dec. 29 – In a Fact Sheet released Tuesday, USDA spells out details for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) which provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Fire losses must have occurred on federally managed lands.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the LFP to compensate eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county. LFP also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

Among the main points:

Eligible Counties for Drought

An eligible livestock producer that 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 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 1 monthly payment
- 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 2 monthly payments
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 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 3 monthly payments.

Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock types under LFP include:

- alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep, or swine that have been 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 excluded the livestock producer from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to fire.

Eligible livestock must:

- during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition have been owned, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase;
- have been held by a contract grower or sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or 1 or both of the 2 production years immediately preceding the current production year;
- 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. (Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show);
- 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 producer.

Eligible Producers

To be eligible for LFP, producers must:

- during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire, own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock;
- provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land 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 normal permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire;
- certify that they have suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire;
- timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a loss of grazing is being claimed.

Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR)

To be eligible for LFP, producers must, for the grazing land incurring losses because of a qualifying drought or fire for which assistance is being requested, do either of the following:

- obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the grazed forage crop under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA);
- file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the applicable State application closing date for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

For the 4-page Livestock Forage Disaster Program Fact Sheet, go to:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lfp09.pdf

For 2008 Program Year Livestock Forage Disaster Program maps, go to:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=lfp>

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