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## USDA Offers Feed Loss Assistance to Wyoming Livestock Producers Impacted by Recent Winter Storm

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director SED William Bunce in Wyoming today announced that producers who suffered livestock and/or honeybee feed or grazing losses due to the recent winter storm could be eligible for assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).



"The recent winter storm affected many livestock operations, leaving livestock stranded which leaves producers with snow removal costs as well as increased feed expenses," said Bunce. "ELAP provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs," he said.

### Feed Costs and Snow Removal

ELAP assists producers with additional livestock feed purchased above normal quantities. Associated equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal may be eligible as a part of your additional feed expenses.

ELAP covers up to 150 lost grazing days. If a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to an eligible disaster condition, FSA can assist with eligible grazing losses if greater than eligible additional feed expenses. Assistance with transportation costs of livestock, forage, and/or water are only for drought events.

Producers are required to maintain records and receipts which include but are not limited to the costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, receipts for equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal, and feed purchase receipts.

Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. A notice of loss can be made over the phone. Additionally, the deadline to submit an application for payment for 2023 ELAP assistance is January 30, 2024. Once the 2023 payment rates are established, FSA will review applications for approval.

"Producers should call their local FSA to submit a notice of loss and for more specific information on required records, receipts and documentation," said Bunce.

### Livestock Losses

Producers who experience livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality may be eligible for the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP). To participate in LIP, producers will have to provide verifiable documentation of

their inventory and the death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event. A notice of loss must be submitted to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

For more information regarding ELAP, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

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## LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM- FILLING A NOTICE OF LOSS

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by an eligible adverse weather event or attacked by federally protected animals (Eagles and Grizzly Bears) or re-introduced predators (Grey Wolf). In addition, LIP covers livestock that were injured due to an eligible event and were sold for a reduced price within 30 days of the eligible event.



An eligible adverse weather event is defined as one that is not expected to occur during the loss period for which it occurred, which directly results from or is exacerbated by extreme, abnormal and damaging weather that directly results in injury or death of eligible livestock in excess of normal mortality and includes any of the following that occur in the calendar year for which benefits are requested: earthquake; hail; lightning; tornado; tropical storm; typhoon; fog; hurricane; flood; blizzard; wildfire; extreme heat; extreme cold; straight-line winds; eligible winter storm; Larkspur poisoning; Cyanobacteria; or Anthrax.

Blizzard means, as defined by the National Weather Service, a storm which contains large amounts of snow or blowing snow with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibility of less than ¼ mile for an extended period of time.

Eligible winter storm is an event that is so severe as to directly cause injury to livestock, lasts in duration for at least three (3) consecutive days and includes a combination of high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall, and extremely cold temperatures. For a determination of winter storm, the wind, precipitation, and extremely cold temperatures must occur within the 3-day period with wind and extremely cold temperatures occurring in each of the three (3) days.

The following information is provided to assist producers with the minimum Livestock Indemnity Program documentation requirements. The County Committee may require additional records, depending on your operation or the loss condition(s).

To participate in the Livestock Indemnity Program, it is a two-step process. First, you must file a Notice of Loss with 30 calendar days of noticing the loss. Second, you must file an Application for Payment any time after the Notice of Loss but no later than March 1 in the year following your loss.

### **Notice of Loss:**

To begin, you must file a Notice of Loss within 30 calendar days of the date your livestock death or injury losses are apparent. You will not need to declare the number of death losses at this time but you will need to state what type of loss condition occurred (weather or predator attack), the beginning and ending dates of the event, and the type and kind of livestock involved. The type of event and date(s) of the event need to be specific. Stating snow “the week of \_\_\_\_\_” or cold temps “the month of \_\_\_\_\_” is not specific.

Filing the Notice of Loss can be done in person, over the phone, or by email. FSA recommends that you file in person if possible.

Per handbook procedure found in 1-LIP, **you are required to provide the weather event documentation** to the County Committee. Failure to do so will result in the weather event being determined ineligible due to lack of required documentation.

You will have to file more than one notice of loss if you have multiple events in a single year. Loss claims for LIP are considered on a calendar year basis, January 1 through December 31.

You will be notified if the loss condition is determined eligible or not and approved or disapproved by the County Committee.

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## ClickUSDA Announces Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program

The Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.



USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept PARP applications from January 23, 2023, through June 2, 2023.

### Eligible and Ineligible Commodities

For PARP, eligible agricultural commodities include crops, aquaculture, livestock, livestock byproducts, or other animals or animal byproducts that are produced as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. This includes only commodities produced in the United States or those produced outside the United States by a producer located in the United States and marketed inside the United States.

The following commodities **are not eligible** for PARP:

- Wild free-roaming animals.
- Horses and other animals used or intended to be used for racing or wagering.
- Aquatic species that do not meet the definition of aquaculture.
- *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of that plant that does not meet the definition of hemp.
- Timber.

### Program Eligibility

PARP payments will be made on a whole-farm basis, not commodity-by-commodity. To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and must have experienced a 15 percent decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020, as compared to either:

- The 2018 or 2019 **calendar year**, *as elected by the producer*, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 **calendar years**, or
- The producer's expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue, if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.

PARP payments will be issued after the application period ends on June 2, 2023.

For more information on determining allowable gross revenue visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp) or review the [PARP fact sheet](#).

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## USDA Announces Availability of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate-Smart Agriculture

USDA is making funding available for agricultural producers and forest landowners nationwide to participate in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices. The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) provided an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements. NRCS is

making available \$850 million in fiscal year 2023 for its oversubscribed conservation programs: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The IRA funding includes an additional \$8.45 billion for EQIP, \$4.95 billion for RCPP, \$3.25 billion for CSP, and \$1.4 billion for ACEP. The increased funding levels begin in fiscal year 2023 and rapidly build over four years. These additional investments are estimated to help hundreds of thousands of farmers and ranchers apply conservation to millions of acres of land. Additionally, the IRA provides \$300 million to quantify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases (GHG) through the collection and use of field-based data to assess conservation outcomes. Information gained through this effort will be used to improve practices and technical assistance to customers. Further guidance on this important work will be provided as the implementation of this portion of the IRA continues. These funds will provide direct climate mitigation benefits and will expand access to financial and technical assistance for producers to advance conservation on their farm, ranch or forest land through practices like cover cropping, conservation tillage, wetland restoration, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, tree planting and more. To ensure we can quantify the benefits of these IRA investments, NRCS is working to support Department-wide work on Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MMRV). The IRA provided targeted funding to support this effort. In administering the Inflation Reduction Act climate investments, USDA will also support other environmental co-benefits, including – among other things – water conservation, wildlife habitat improvements, and reducing runoff.

### How to Apply

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but producers interested in **EQIP** or **CSP** should apply by [their state's ranking dates](#) to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process and will include an opportunity to address the unmet demand from producers who have previously sought funding for climate-smart conservation activities.

For **ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)** or **Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)**, applications for the current IRA funding cycle must be submitted by **March 17, 2023**, for the first funding round. This year, NRCS will prioritize ACEP-ALE for grasslands in areas of highest risk for conversion to non-grassland uses to prevent the release of soil carbon stores. Meanwhile, NRCS will prioritize ACEP-WRE for eligible lands that contain soils high in organic carbon.

NRCS plans to roll out the next **RCPP** funding opportunity in early spring, which will include IRA funds from fiscal year 2023.

Other opportunities for agreements and partnerships at the state level will be announced for fiscal year 2023 in the coming months. The IRA provides funding to support those strategic partnerships with local, regional and national organizations. This will include outreach to underserved producers to ensure IRA climate funding is reaching those who have been previously unable to access conservation assistance.

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## Communication is Key in Lending

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing our farm loan borrowers the tools necessary to be successful. FSA staff will provide guidance and counsel from the loan application process through the borrower's graduation to commercial credit. While it is FSA's commitment to advise borrowers as they identify goals and evaluate progress, it is crucial for borrowers to communicate with their farm loan staff when changes occur. It is the borrower's responsibility to alert FSA to any of the following:

- Any proposed or significant changes in the farming operation
- Any significant changes to family income or expenses
- The development of problem situations
- Any losses or proposed significant changes in security



If a farm loan borrower can't make payments to suppliers, other creditors, or FSA on time, contact your farm loan staff immediately to discuss loan servicing options.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 X2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).



## Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center

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Phone: 307-326-5657  
Fax: 855-415-3441

### Farm Service Agency

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### County Committee

Cheryl Munroe, Chair  
Mary Ann Boles, Vice-Chair  
Robin Carter, Member  
Darcy Kaislet, Member  
Ryan Wilson, Member

**Next COC Meeting: TBD**

### Natural Resource Conservation Service

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