



FACT SHEET

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

April 2013

Emergency Conservation Program

Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress.

Program Administration

ECP is administered by FSA state and county committees. Subject to availability of funds, locally elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which is authorized by the FSA national office.

Land Eligibility

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- Impair or endanger the land;
- Materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- Represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- Be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.

Payments

As determined by FSA county committees, ECP participants may receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Qualified limited-resource producers may receive cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices.

Individual or cumulative requests for cost-share assistance of \$50,000 or less per person or legal entity, per disaster are approved at the county committee level. Cost-share assistance requests exceeding \$50,000 require approval from the state committee or national office. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity per disaster.

Technical assistance may be provided by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Emergency Conservation Practices

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices such as:

- Debris removal from farmland;
- Grading, shaping, or leveling land;
- Restoring livestock fences and conservation structures and;
- Providing water for livestock during periods of severe drought.

Other conservation measures may be authorized by FSA county committees with approval from FSA state committees and the FSA national office.

Sign-up Periods

Producers should inquire with their local FSA county office regarding ECP sign-up periods, which are established by FSA county committees.

For More Information

More information on ECP is available at FSA offices and on FSA's website at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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August 22, 2014

A lack of moisture, over an extended period of time, has caused producers in Lincoln County to suffer from the effects of severe drought conditions. Farms and ranches experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance under Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This disaster program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA), which provides cost-share assistance if the damage is so severe that water available for livestock has been reduced below normal to the extent that they cannot survive without additional water.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost shares not to exceed 50 percent of the cost of installing eligible temporary measures. Cost sharing for permanent measures is based on up to 75 percent of the total eligible cost. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity per natural disaster. Approved practices and measures may include:

- installing pipelines, troughs or other facilities for livestock water
- constructing and deepening wells for livestock water
- developing springs or seeps for livestock water.

Producers who have experienced severe drought conditions requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water may contact the local FSA County Office.

Requests for assistance will be accepted at the Jerome FSA County Office starting August 22, 2014 thru September 20, 2014.

To be eligible for cost shares, practices shall not be started until a request has first been filed at the FSA County Office and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made by COC or its representative. COC will review the inspection findings when considering the request for cost shares.

