



# WV DROUGHT FAQs

**My pastures are burnt up from the drought and heat.**

- **Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** provides a payment to compensate eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock.
- **FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** grazing may help. If you signed up for a policy in Spring 2024 or if you are an eligible beginning farmer or historically underserved farmer who gets free coverage, a payment can be made for yield losses resulting from eligible weather-related events. Contact your local FSA office to see if you qualify.
- **Risk Management Agency's Rainfall Index (RI) Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF)** insurance program is designed to provide coverage on your pasture, rangeland, or forage acres. This innovative program is based on a precipitation index. Sign up ends in November of the previous year so producers can evaluate the program for 2025.

**Are Horses/Donkeys/Equines eligible for LFP?**

Yes they are eligible.



## DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM KEY

- **FSA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - A cost-share program that helps farmers develop water resources (wells, springs, etc.) during severe drought.
- **FSA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - Provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions.
- **NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** - A cost-share program that as a part of a broader conservation contract can provide water sources such as spring developments, wells, municipal hook ups, along with pipelines and troughs, cross fencing etc.
- **FSA Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** - Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought.
- **FSA Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - Provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.
- **West Virginia Conservation Agency and local Conservation District's Emergency Contingency Program** provides a 50% cost-share payment up to \$500 for the purchase of portable pumps, hauling tanks and portable waterlines.

**I'm selling cows/livestock.**

- LFP compensates producers on livestock sold as part of the drought. These are considered mitigated livestock. These funds can help purchase feed to reduce the number you have to sell.
- No drought management discussion is complete without mentioning culling livestock numbers. Right now cattle prices are very good and all livestock prices are above average. This can be an opportunity to cull out the 3 O's: Old, Open and Ornerly. This can be an opportunity to improve your herd by focusing on the best and expanding as forage resources return to normal. WVU Extension has resources available to assist producers in making culling decisions.



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## I need help buying feed for my livestock.

While there is not a program currently available for purchasing feed, many producers are using FSA's LFP program payments to purchase additional feed. Producers are also using payments from NAP and RMA's PRF insurance to purchase feed.

If you don't have the funds to purchase additional feed, FSA's farm loan program may be able to assist you.

## My livestock are out of water/I've been hauling water to livestock.

There are several programs available to assist producers with livestock water needs. Some programs offer immediate assistance and others are longer term solutions.

- **West Virginia Conservation Agency** and local Conservation District's Emergency Contingency Program provides a 50% cost-share payment up to \$500 for the purchase of portable pumps, hauling tanks and portable waterlines.
- **FSA's ELAP** program compensates producers for water transportation costs to eligible livestock.
- **FSA's Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** can pay for wells, spring developments, pipeline and troughs for eligible producers to provide water sources for eligible livestock.



- **Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** is a cost share program that as a part of a broader conservation contract can provide water sources such as spring developments, wells, municipal hook ups, along with pipelines and troughs, cross fencing etc.

## I'm hauling hay/feed for my livestock.

- FSA's ELAP program can compensate producers for additional transportation costs associated with transporting livestock feed additional mileage above normal during an eligible drought.
- NAP and PRF policies are risk protection tools that producers should evaluate for their operations. These policies are very helpful when weather impacts the farming operation.

## I've a berry/fruit/vegetable producer what help is there for me?

- FSA's NAP insurance can cover many different enterprises including fruits, berries, and vegetables. Again, you would have needed to sign up by the appropriate deadline of November 15th for most fruits and berries and March 15th for vegetables. The same guidelines for beginning farmers and historically underserved producers apply. Contact your local FSA office to see if you qualify.
- NRCS programs may be of assistance contact your local office to see if you qualify.

## I'm a corn and soybean grower what help is there for me?

- Currently, the only assistance for commodity crop producers is Crop Insurance. Producers would have needed to apply for coverage in the Spring of 2024 through their local Crop Insurance representative.



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## How can I prepare for the next drought/natural disaster?

WVU Extension Service, WV Conservation Agency, NRCS, and FSA are working together to develop educational programs to help farmers navigate the path through this drought and to prepare for future natural disasters. Contact your local WVU Extension Office to find out about upcoming programs and to get information about how to build resiliency into your operation.

## How do I find my local FSA Office?

Go to [www.Farmers.gov](http://www.Farmers.gov) to find your local FSA office address and phone number.

Please call to set up an appointment and to learn what additional information you need to bring to your appointment, such as deeds, leases, livestock numbers, mileage logs, etc. depending on the program. As expected, FSA is actively busy assisting producers with their applications. If you call and no one answers - leave a message - and they will return the call as soon as possible.

## INFORMATION & CONTACTS

**The West Virginia Department of Agriculture**  
304-558-3200  
<https://agriculture.wv.gov>

**WVDA Drought Resource Assistance Page**  
<https://agriculture.wv.gov>

**The West Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA)**  
304-284-4800  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/West-Virginia/index>

**USDA Business Page (access farm records, apply for loans, make payments)**  
<https://farmers.gov>

**West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA)**  
304-558-2204  
<https://wvca.us>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**  
304-284-7540  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

**WVU Extension**  
<https://extension.wvu.edu>