**Federal Disaster Assistance for Agriculture Producers**

The following are some of the programs available to producers to assist in recovery after a natural disaster. **To apply for assistance, contact your local FSA office (see attached list) or you may contact the state FSA office at (352) 379-4500, Fax (833) 881-9156.**

**Emergency Farm Loans**

When a tornado, flood, or drought strikes, or a quarantine is imposed by the Secretary of Agriculture, or when other natural disasters occur, FSA's Emergency loan program is there to help eligible farmers and ranchers rebuild and recover from sustained losses.

The Emergency loan program is triggered when a natural disaster is designated by the Secretary of Agriculture or a natural disaster or emergency is declared by the President under the Stafford Act. These loans help producers who suffer qualifying farm related losses directly caused by the disaster in a county declared or designated as a primary disaster or quarantine area. Also, farmers located in counties that are contiguous to the declared, designated, or quarantined area may qualify for Emergency loans.

For production losses, a 30% reduction in a primary crop in a designated or contiguous county is required. Losses to quality, such as receiving a 30% reduced price for flood damaged crops, may be eligible for assistance, too.

[**https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2024/Emergency-Loan-Program-2024.pdf**](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2024/Emergency-Loan-Program-2024.pdf)

**Disaster Set-Aside Program**

The Disaster Set-Aside Program provides producers who have existing direct loans with FSA who are unable to make the scheduled payments to move up to one full year’s payment to the end of the loan. Assistance is available in counties, or contiguous counties, who have been designated as emergencies by the President, Secretary or FSA Administrator.

[**https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/disaster-set-aside-program-factsheet-19.pdf**](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2019/disaster-set-aside-program-factsheet-19.pdf)

**Emergency Conservation Program**

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. The ECP does this through funding and technical assistance.

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. Eligible land includes land used for commercial farming, ranching and orchard operations; growing nursery stock and Christmas tree plantations; grazing for commercial livestock production; and conservation structures such as, waterways, terraces, diversions and windbreaks.

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

* Removing debris from farmland (cleanup of wind- or waterdeposited debris, such as woody material, sand, rock and trash on cropland or pastureland);
* Grading, shaping or leveling land (filling gullies, releveling irrigated farmland and incorporating sand and silt);
* Restoring fences (livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates, or wildlife exclusion fence on agricultural land);
* Restoring conservation structures (waterways, terraces, diversion ditches and permanently installed ditching system); and
* Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought (grazing and confined livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards).

[**https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2024/fsa\_emergencyconservationprogram\_24.pdf**](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2024/fsa_emergencyconservationprogram_24.pdf)

**Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**

The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters. To qualify for TAP, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers must have suffered a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality for the stand (adjusted for normal mortality) due to an eligible natural disaster; have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred, but eligible growers are not required to own the land on which owned eligible trees, bushes and vines are planted; and replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the TAP application is approved.

For tree, bush, or vine replacement, replanting and/or rehabilitation, the payment calculation is the lesser of the following:

* 65 percent of the actual cost of replanting, in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality), and, where applicable, 50 percent of the actual cost of rehabilitation, in excess of 15 percent damage or mortality (adjusted for normal tree damage and normal mortality); or
* The maximum eligible amount established for the practice by FSA

For losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2017, there is no payment limitation for TAP. In applying the limitation on average adjusted gross income (AGI), a person or legal entity is ineligible for payment under TAP if the AGI of the person or legal entity for the relevant tax years exceeds $900,000.

[**https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/tree\_assistance\_program-tap-fact\_sheet.pdf**](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/tree_assistance_program-tap-fact_sheet.pdf)