

# Appendix B: Drought Assistance Programs

## Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Program (USDA)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

This program provides revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers. Owners must one-time elect to select the type of coverage for each of the covered commodities. The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program provides income support tied to historical base acres, not current production, of covered commodities. ARC payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC guarantee for the covered commodity. Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price for that commodity. The effective price equals the higher of the market year average price or the national average loan rate for the covered commodity. Covered commodities include wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, and large chickpeas. Visit [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc\\_program/index](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/index) for more information about the program.

## Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Response Program<sup>2</sup>

### Overview

The Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Response Program provides assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that build long-term resiliency to drought. The program is split up into three areas Drought Contingency Planning, Drought Resiliency Projects, and Emergency Response Actions. For information about each area is given below. For more detailed information visit: <https://www.usbr.gov/drought/index.html>.

### Drought Contingency Planning

The Bureau of Reclamation can provide financial assistance for applicants to develop a drought contingency plan or to update an existing plan.

### Drought Resiliency Projects

The Bureau of Reclamation also funds projects that help communities prepare for and respond to drought. Eligible project types include:

- Infrastructure improvements, modifying surface intakes, and recharge, treatment, and storage facilities.
- Decision support tools, including drought forecasting tools, and water measurement and monitoring equipment.
- Projects benefitting fish, wildlife, and the environment.

---

1 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "ARC/PLC Program". Accessed August 2022. [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc\\_program/index](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/index).

2 Bureau of Reclamation. "Drought Response Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.usbr.gov/drought/docs/DroughtResponseProgramFactSheet.pdf>.

## Emergency Response Actions

Emergency response actions are meant to minimize losses and damages resulting from drought. They are crisis driven actions in response to unanticipated circumstances. Eligible emergency response actions are limited to temporary construction activities and other actions that do not involve the construction of permanent facilities.

## Circuit Rider Program (USDA)<sup>3</sup>

### Overview

This program provides technical assistance to rural water systems that are experiencing day to day operation, financial, or managerial issues. Topics the circuit rider can assist with:

- Board training
- Management and finance
- Operation and maintenance
- Leak detection
- Water treatment
- Regulatory compliance
- Facility security
- Loan application and reporting
- Disaster and emergency assistance

For more information visit the USDA page: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/circuit-rider-program-technical-assistance-rural-water-systems>.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, the water system must serve an area with a population of 10,000 or fewer and be either a public body, nonprofit, or Tribe with legal authority to own and operate the water facility.

## Coping with Drought Research Competition (National Integrated Drought Information System)<sup>4</sup>

### Overview

Research through the Coping with Drought Research Competition assesses impacts of drought on agriculture, ecosystems, and water resources and develops decision support tools for regional, state and local use. The projects incorporate consultation with stakeholders and focus on information that is most useful for decision-making to increase resilience; models and tools that bring this information to decision makes; and strategies for improving engagement with communities in preparedness. For more information about this year's competition visit: <https://www.drought.gov/drought-research/coping-with-drought-competition?resource=fy2018#about>.

---

3 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Circuit Rider Program – technical Assistance for Rural Water Systems". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/circuit-rider-program-technical-assistance-rural-water-systems>.

4 National Integrated Drought Information System. "NIDIS Coping with Drought Research Competition". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.drought.gov/drought-research/coping-with-drought-competition>.

## Disaster Epidemiology and Response (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

### Overview

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides expertise and leadership in epidemiology to state, tribal, local, territorial, and federal partners to help them prepare for and respond to disasters. Two specific programs are discussed below.

### Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)<sup>5</sup>

CASPER is a type of Rapid Needs Assessment that provides household-level information to public health leaders and emergency managers. The information generated can be used to initiate public health action, identify information gaps, facilitate disaster planning, response and recovery activities, and assess new or changing needs in the community. To find out more about CASPER and how to request one, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/casper/overview.htm>.

### Training and Technical Assistance<sup>6</sup>

The CDC provides consultation and technical assistance during all phases of a disaster cycle. Topic areas include disaster morbidity and mortality surveillance, disaster-specific preparedness and response planning, and advice on epidemiologic studies and research. The CDC also provides in-person disaster epidemiology training. For more information on the training and technical assistance offered visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/training.htm>.

## Disaster Set-Aside Program (USDA)<sup>7</sup>

### Overview

Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers located in designated disaster areas or contiguous counties who are unable to make their scheduled payment on any FSA debt, can get a set-aside of one payment to allow the operation to continue.

A fact sheet for the Disaster Set-Aside Program can be found here: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/disaster-set-aside-program-factsheet-19.pdf>.

### Eligibility

Eligibility to receive the set-aside will primarily be determined based on the following criteria:

- As a direct result of the disaster, the borrower is unable to pay all family living and farm operating expenses, payments to other creditors, and payments to FSA;
- The borrower must have operated a farm or ranch in a county designated as a disaster area or in a contiguous county. Each loan considered for set-aside must have been outstanding at the time of the disaster;
- The borrower must have acted in good faith and complied with written agreements with FSA;
- The borrower must not be in non-monetary default;
- The borrower must be current or not more than 90 days past due on any FSA loan;
- After the set-aside, the borrower will be current on all FSA loans;
- The borrower's FSA debt has not been restructured since the disaster;

---

5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Overview of CASPER"

6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Training and Technical Assistance". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/training.htm>.

7 U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2019. "Disaster Set-Aside Program". <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/disaster-set-aside-program-factsheet-19.pdf>.

- The amount set aside will not exceed one year's FSA payment;
- No loan may receive more than one disaster set-aside unless it is later restructured; and
- The borrower must be able to develop a positive cash-flow projection for the coming year.

## **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (U.S. Department of Labor)<sup>8</sup>**

### **Overview**

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides temporary benefits to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance.

A Major Disaster means any natural catastrophe or other types of disasters that result in a Presidential declaration of a disaster. For a fact sheet about the DUA visit: [https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/docs/factsheet/DUA\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/docs/factsheet/DUA_FactSheet.pdf).

### **Eligibility**

One of the following conditions of unemployment must have occurred as a direct result of the disaster to qualify for DUA:

- The individual has had a week of unemployment following the date the major disaster began;
- The individual is unable to reach his/her place of employment;
- The individual was scheduled to start work and the job no longer exists or the individual was unable to the job;
- The individual became the breadwinner or major support because the head of the household died as a direct result of the disaster; or
- The individual cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

## **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (U.S. Small Business Administration)<sup>9</sup>**

### **Overview**

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program was created to assist businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters (presidential, Small Business Administration, or Secretary of Agriculture). The Small Business Administration can provide up to \$2 million to help meeting financial obligations and operating expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred. EIDL assistance is available only to small businesses when SBA determines they are unable to obtain credit elsewhere. For more information visit the website at: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/economic-injury-disaster-loans>.

### **Eligibility**

The following entities are eligible for the EIDL program.

- Small businesses with fewer than 500 employees
- Sole proprietors
- Independent contractors
- Most private nonprofits

8 U.S. Department of Labor. "Disaster Unemployment Assistance". Accessed June 2022. [https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/docs/factsheet/DUA\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/docs/factsheet/DUA_FactSheet.pdf).

9 U.S. Small Business Administration. "Economic Injury Disaster Loans". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/economic-injury-disaster-loans>.

## Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (USDA)<sup>10</sup>

### Overview

The 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, including blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs, such as losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster Program and the Livestock Indemnity Program. A fact sheet for ELAP can be found here: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/elap-general-fact-sheet.pdf>.

### What is Eligible?

ELAP provides assistance for:

- Livestock feed and grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands;
- Losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought\*;
- Cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing due to an eligible drought\*;
- Losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock for treatment and/or inspection related to cattle tick fever;
- Honeybee feed, colony and hive losses; and
- Farm-raised fish feed and death losses.

\*Eligible Drought:

- Drought intensity of D2 for eight consecutive weeks as indicated by the USDM.
- Drought intensity is D3 or greater.

## Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (USDA)<sup>11</sup>

### Overview

The Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants helps eligible entities prepare or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. A federal disaster declaration is not required for these grants. Funds can be used for water transmission lines (extensions, repair breaks or leaks, maintenance) or water source projects (construction of an intake or treatment facility). For more information visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants>.

### Eligible Areas

Eligible areas include:

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less;
- Tribal lands in rural areas; and
- Colonias.

---

10 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index>.

11 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants>.

## Emergency Conservation Program (USDA)<sup>12</sup>

### Overview

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disasters and implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. The county Farm Service Agency office will provide guidance on the approval process and next steps. For more information about the ECP, visit: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/emergency-conservation-program-ecp-fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/emergency-conservation-program-ecp-fact_sheet.pdf).

### Eligibility

Land eligibility is 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;
- Grazing for commercial livestock production; and
- Conservation structures such as, waterways, terraces, diversions, and windbreaks.

## Emergency Haying and Grazing (USDA)<sup>13</sup>

### Overview

Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by Severe Drought (D2) or similar natural disaster. Requests for emergency haying and grazing may also be initiated due to a livestock emergency. The request must document a 40 percent or greater loss of forage production due to the disaster event.

For a fact sheet regarding emergency use of CRP acres for haying and grazing visit: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/crp\\_haying\\_grazing\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/crp_haying_grazing_factsheet.pdf).

### Eligible Acres

Emergency haying or grazing is limited to acres physically located within the boundary of the eligible county or portion of a county. Acres will only be authorized for a specified time and may end earlier than announced if conditions improve.

Producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of their acreage. For emergency haying, producers are limited to one cutting and are permitted to sell the hay. Participants must remove all hay from CRP acreage within 15 days after baling and remove all livestock from CRP acreage no later than one day after the end of the emergency grazing period.

---

12 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Disaster Assistance Emergency Conservation Program". Accessed June 2022. [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/emergency-conservation-program-ecp-fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/emergency-conservation-program-ecp-fact_sheet.pdf).

13 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Conservation Reserve Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>.

## Emergency Loan Program (USDA)<sup>14</sup>

### Overview

These emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

A fact sheet for the Emergency Loan Program can be found here: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/emergency-loan-program.pdf>.

### Eligibility

Emergency loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who:

- Own or operate land located in a county declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area or quarantine area. All counties contiguous to the declared, designated, or quarantined primary counties are also eligible for emergency loans.
- Are established family farm operators and have sufficient farming or ranching experience;
- Are citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property;
- Have an acceptable credit history;
- Are unable to receive credit from commercial sources;
- Can provide collateral to secure the loan; and
- Have repayment ability.

## Emergency Water Assistance/Drought Assistance (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)<sup>15</sup>

### Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide emergency water assistance to any community or tribal entity with water supply problems associated with drought conditions or a contaminated source. The intent is to provide temporary emergency water assistance to meet public health requirements. Water assistance for livestock, industrial use, irrigation, and recreation is not available. Types of drought assistance provided include the following.

- Transportation of water to local distribution points, for human consumption/usage.
- Sale of water from Corps' Reservoirs that is deemed surplus.
- Temporary connection of new supply to existing system.
- Construction of wells on a reimbursable basis.
- Installation of temporary filtration.
- Use of military units with purification/storage/distribution capability.

---

14 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Emergency Farm Loans". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index>.

15 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Emergency Water Assistance". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Management/Emergency-Water/>.

Additional information can be found on the Corps' website: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Management/Emergency-Water/>.

### **Criteria for Drought Assistance**

- Written request from the governor or tribal representative.
- The area is drought-distressed and found to have an inadequate water supply which is causing or is likely to cause a substantial threat to the health of people in the area.
- State/local government, or tribe has developed a long-term solution that can be implemented expeditiously.
- A Cooperation Agreement has been signed and all necessary easements and rights-of-way have been provided.

## **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (Natural Resources Conservation Service)<sup>16</sup>**

### **Overview**

The Emergency Watershed Protection programs offers vital recovery options for local communities to help people reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Project funds address erosion related watershed impairments by supporting activities such as removing debris from stream channels, road culverts and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; and reseeding damaged areas. 75% of the eligible construction costs of emergency measures will be paid for by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### **Eligibility**

Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor such as a city, county, conservation district, or any Native American tribe.

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (Natural Resources Conservation Service)<sup>17</sup>**

### **Overview**

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides financial assistance to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters. These practices include activities like stream bank restoration, grassed waterways and buffers. Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, and beginning farmers/veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate and may receive advance payment of up to 50 percent to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in their contract. For more information visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/?cid=nrseprd1361073>.

---

16 Natural Resources Conservation Service. February 2020 "Emergency Watershed Protection Program". Accessed July 2022. [file:///C:/Users/kdietrich/Downloads/NRCS\\_EWP\\_19.pdf](file:///C:/Users/kdietrich/Downloads/NRCS_EWP_19.pdf).

17 Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Natural Disaster Recovery Assistance Through EQIP". Accessed June 2022. [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MEDIA/nrcseprd1429025.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/nrcseprd1429025.pdf).



## Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Assistance

FEMA has several grants and programs available for tribal entities and tribal citizens. Information about the different grants and programs is given below.

### Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant<sup>18</sup>

BRIC provides funding to support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. Funds may be used for capability and capacity building activities, mitigation projects, and management costs. All state, local, tribal, and territorial governments must develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for their projects. All federally recognized tribal governments may apply for \$1 million federal cost share per applicant under the Tribal Set-Aside. For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>.

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)<sup>19</sup>

FEMA's HMGP provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to rebuild in a way that mitigates future disaster losses in their communities. This grant funding is available only after a presidentially declared disaster. All state, local, tribal, and territorial governments must develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for their hazard mitigation projects. The grant program can fund a wide variety of mitigation projects. For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation>.

### Individuals and Households Program (IHP)<sup>20</sup>

IHP provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or under-insured necessary expenses and serious needs. The assistance is intended to meet basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts. Assistance may include:

- Temporary housing
- Repair or replacement of owner-occupied homes
- Hazard mitigation assistance
- Other uninsured or under-insured disaster-caused expenses and serious needs

For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/program>.

### Public Assistance Program<sup>21</sup>

FEMA's Public Assistance Program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments to quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. After a disaster event, communities need help to cover their costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and resting public infrastructure. For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public>.

---

18 Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>.

19 Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Hazard Mitigation Grant Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation>.

20 Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Individuals and Households Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/program>.

21 Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Assistance for Governments and Private Non-Profits After a Disaster". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public>.

## Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans (USDA)<sup>22</sup>

### Overview

Farm operating loans may be made to purchase items needed, such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, repairs, insurance, and other operating expenses. The maximum loan amount is \$400,000. For more information about the loans, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-operating-loans/index>.

## Hay and Forage Hotline (Nebraska Department of Agriculture)<sup>23</sup>

### Overview

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture created the Hay and Forage Hotline to connect buyers with sellers of hay, pasture, and other types of forage. The hotline is available to all buyers and sellers for free. To see the sellers list or list hay for sale, visit: <https://nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/hay/index.html>.

## Hay Harvesting Permits (NDOT)<sup>24</sup>

### Overview

The Nebraska Department of Transportation issues permits for the mowing and harvesting of hay on the right-of-way of highways of the state highway system. An abutting landowner has priority to obtain a permits from March 1 through July 29. All applicants who are not abutting landowners may not apply for a permit until July 30. Only one cutting is allowed per permit. For additional requirements and permit application, visit: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/permits/hay-harvest/>.

## Internet Hay Exchange<sup>25</sup>

### Overview

The Internet Hay Exchange is an online buying/selling site where anonymous producers can post hay available for purchase on a state-by-state basis. Listings for Nebraska can be found here: <http://www.hayexchange.com/ne.php>.

## Livestock Forage Disaster Program (USDA)<sup>26</sup>

### Overview

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides payments to:

- Eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and
- Who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing) that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

LFP also provides payments to:

- Eligible livestock owners or contract growers that have covered livestock and

22 U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2020. "Farm Operating Loans". Accessed August 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-operating-loans/index>.

23 Nebraska Department of Agriculture. "Hay and Forage Hotline". Accessed August 2022. <https://nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/hay/index.html>.

24 Nebraska Department of Transportation. "Hay Harvest Permits". Access September 2022. <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/permits/hay-harvest/>.

25 Internet Hay Exchange. "Nebraska Hay for Sale Listings". Accessed July 2022. <http://www.hayexchange.com/ne.php>.

26 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Livestock Forage Disaster Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>.

- Who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage 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.

A fact sheet for the LFP can be found at [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/fsa\\_lfp-livestockforageprogramfactsheet-2022\\_final.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/fsa_lfp-livestockforageprogramfactsheet-2022_final.pdf).

## Eligible Counties

An eligible livestock owner or contract grower who, as a grazed forage crop producer, owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the USDM as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to one 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 three monthly payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least four 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 four monthly payments; or
- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (not necessarily four consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.

A list and map of eligible counties can be found at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>.

## Livestock Indemnity Program (USDA)<sup>27</sup>

### Overview

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including adverse weather and disease. In addition, LIP provides assistance to livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition. Payments for owners are based on national payment rates that are 75 percent of the market value. A fact sheet for the LIP can be found at [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2022/fsa\\_lip\\_livestockIndemnityprogram\\_factsheet\\_2022\\_final\\_v3.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2022/fsa_lip_livestockIndemnityprogram_factsheet_2022_final_v3.pdf).

### Eligible Livestock Owners

To be eligible for LIP:

- A livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock died and or were injured by an eligible loss condition; and
- An owners livestock must have either:
  - Died in excess of normal mortality as a direct result of an eligible loss condition, or been injured as a direct result of an eligible loss condition and were sold at a reduced price.

<sup>27</sup> U.S Department of Agriculture. "Livestock Indemnity Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index>.

Note that drought is not an eligible adverse weather event except when associated with anthrax and results in the death of eligible livestock.

## **Mitigation Assistance Loan (U.S. Small Business Administration)<sup>28</sup>**

### **Overview**

Eligible U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan borrowers may choose to receive expanded funding to help mitigate their home or business against future disasters. Loans can be increased up to 20% to make building upgrades. Approval of mitigation measures is required before any loan increase can be made. There is no cost to apply, and you are under no obligation to accept a loan if approved. For information on these loans or how to apply visit: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/mitigation-assistance>.

## **Nebraska Alfalfa Marketing Association<sup>29</sup>**

### **Overview**

The Nebraska Alfalfa Marketing Association connects producers with ranchers, dairy farmers, stables, feedlot operators, and others looking for alfalfa hay and other forages. Product inventory can be found here: <https://www.nebraska-alfalfa.com/>.

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (USDA)<sup>30</sup>**

### **Overview**

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevents crop planning. For more information about the program visit: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/noninsured\\_crop\\_disaster\\_assistance\\_program-nap-fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/noninsured_crop_disaster_assistance_program-nap-fact_sheet.pdf).

### **Eligible Producers**

An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of that crop. An individual's or entity's average adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$900,000.

## **Physical Damage Loans (U.S. Small Business Administration)<sup>31</sup>**

### **Overview**

If you live in a declared disaster area and have experienced damage to your home or personal property, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration – even if you do not own a business. Homeowners may apply for up to \$200,000 to replace or repair their primary residence. Renters and homeowners may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace or repair personal property damaged or destroyed in a disaster. These loans cover disaster losses not fully covered by insurance or other sources. For more information about the loans or how to apply visit: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/physical-damage-loans>.

---

28 U.S. Small Business Administration. "Mitigation Assistance". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/mitigation-assistance>.

29 Independent Forage Growers. "Discover the Advantage". Access September 2022. <https://www.nebraska-alfalfa.com/>.

30 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance/index>.

31 U.S. Small Business Administration. "Physical Damage Loans". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/physical-damage-loans>.

## Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (USDA)<sup>32</sup>

### Overview

This program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design, and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects. Communities less than 2,500 people, nonprofits, and federally recognized tribes may apply. All have to have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income. For more information about the program visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households>.

## Tax Deferral Options for Livestock Producers<sup>33</sup>

### Overview

Cattle producers impacted by weather conditions such as drought or flood could be eligible for federal tax relief. There are two main provisions that assist producers from the effects of adverse weather-related livestock sales. The two provisions are Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 1033 and IRC Section 451(g). A summary of the two provisions is provided below, for additional information speak with your tax agent or visit: [https://www.ncba.org/Media/NCBAorg/Docs/ncba-drought-related-tax-relief-faq-82021\\_1.pdf](https://www.ncba.org/Media/NCBAorg/Docs/ncba-drought-related-tax-relief-faq-82021_1.pdf).

### IRC Section 1033 – Involuntary Conversion of Draft or Breeding Animals

A livestock producer who sells more draft, breeding, or dairy animals than normal due to a weather-related event may defer recognition of the gains for up to two years. This election applies only to the number of animals sold in excess of normal business practices. A declaration of a disaster area is not necessary, but the producer must be able to show that weather-related conditions forced the sale of more livestock than would normally be sold.

### IRC Section 451(g) – One Year Deferral on Income

The gain from the sale of livestock sold early due to drought, flood, or other weather-related events may be deferred for one year. There are five conditions for eligibility:

1. The taxpayer's principal business is farming.
2. The taxpayer uses the cash method of accounting.
3. Under normal business practices, the sale would not have occurred in the current year except for the drought, flood, or other weather event.
4. The drought, flood, or other event resulted in the area designated as eligible for assistance by the federal government.
5. Only livestock in excess of the number that normally would have been sold under usual business practices are eligible for the deferral.

---

32 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "SEARCH – Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households". Accessed June 2022. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households>.

33 National Cattlemen's Beef Association. August 2021. "Tax Relief for Cattle Producers Impact by Natural Disaster". [https://www.ncba.org/Media/NCBAorg/Docs/ncba-drought-related-tax-relief-faq-82021\\_1.pdf](https://www.ncba.org/Media/NCBAorg/Docs/ncba-drought-related-tax-relief-faq-82021_1.pdf).

## Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (Bureau of Reclamation)<sup>34</sup>

### Overview

Through the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, the Bureau of Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority. Identified projects should conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; or accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability. The focus should be on projects that can be completed within two or three years. For more information visit: <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/>.

## Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants (USDA)<sup>35</sup>

### Overview

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Rural communities of less than 10,000 people, private nonprofits, and federally recognized tribes not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms are eligible to apply. Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution. For more information about the loans and grants visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>.

## Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants (USDA)<sup>36</sup>

### Overview

The Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grant assists communities of less than 10,000 people, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized tribes with initial planning and development of applications for USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal direct loan/grant and loan guarantee programs. The maximum grant amount is \$30,000 or 75 percent of the planning costs. Areas must have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income. For more information visit: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-predevelopment-planning-grants>.

## Weed Free Forage Program (Nebraska Weed Control Association)<sup>37</sup>

### Overview

The Nebraska Weed Control Association provides a list of weed free forage that is for sale by various private farmers. To see the list of for sale forage, visit <http://www.neweedfree.org/ForageForSale.aspx>.

34 Bureau of Reclamation. "WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants". Accessed June 2022.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/>.

35 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program". Accessed June 2022.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>.

36 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants". Accessed June 2022.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-predevelopment-planning-grants>.

37 Nebraska Weed Control Association. 2022. "Weed Free Forage for Sale". <http://www.neweedfree.org/ForageForSale.aspx>.