

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)

2023 and 2024



Background

ELRP 2023 and 2024 is part of the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) implementation of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025, Division B of the American Relief Act (P.L. 118-58), which provides \$30.7 billion in much needed assistance for agricultural producers in calendar years 2023 and 2024, including \$2 billion specifically targeted for livestock producers impacted by the severe drought, eligible wildfire or floods.

Overview

FSA is issuing emergency relief payments through the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) to ranchers who have approved applications through the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for grazing losses due to eligible drought or wildfire in 2023 and/or 2024. Livestock producers can receive payment for one or both years.

Eligibility

For impacted producers, USDA is leveraging 2023 and 2024 **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** data to deliver immediate relief. LFP provides up to 60 percent of the estimated replacement feed cost when an eligible drought adversely impacts grazing lands or 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing federally managed rangeland because of a qualifying wildfire. LFP provides additional assistance to producers for eligible livestock that were sold due to a qualifying drought.

ELRP 2023 and 2024 only includes 2023 and 2024 program year LFP participants. To be eligible for an ELRP payment, livestock producers must have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the **U.S. Drought Monitor** as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the 2023, 2024, or both calendar years; or whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was reduced due to wildfire.

How to Apply

As part of FSA's efforts to streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP benefits, eligible livestock **producers are not required to submit an application for payment**; however, they must have the following forms on file for the applicable program year(s):

- CCC-853, Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application
- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable)
- SF-3881, Direct Deposit
- Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland (WC) Certification, for the ELRP 2023 and 2024 producer and applicable affiliates
- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if applicable).

For More Info

USDA launched the **2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page** where the status of USDA disaster assistance and block grant rollout timeline can be tracked.

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by **drought** and **wildfire** and the **Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool**, **Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet**, and **Farm Loan Discovery Tool**.





Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock are the same as those that are eligible for LFP: grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of eligible forage grasses or legumes and include such species as alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, ostrich, reindeer or sheep.

As with LFP, livestock eligible for ELRP 2023 and 2024 must:

- Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or animals used for racing or wagering, hunting, or consumption by the owner; and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner or contract grower.

Eligible Producers

Producer eligibility for ELRP 2023 and 2024 aligns with LFP policies.

To be eligible for ELRP 2023 and 2024, persons or legal entities must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership of U.S. citizens, a legal entity organized under State law, or an Indian tribe or tribal organization defined in the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act that:

- Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire;
- Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land as of the date of the qualifying drought or fire that is either:
- Physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county; or
- Rangeland managed by a federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normally permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire.
- Certify that they have suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire; and
- Timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed.

ELRP 2023 and 2024 Payment Calculation

To expedite payments to eligible livestock producers, determine eligibility, and calculate an ELRP payment, FSA uses livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported by the producer when they submitted a 2023 or 2024 program year CCC-853, *Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application*.

ELRP payments will be equal to the eligible livestock producer's gross LFP calculated payment for the calendar year multiplied by an ELRP 2023 and 2024 payment factor.

The initial payment factor for 2023 and 2024 ELRP payments is 35 percent. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.



Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income

The LFP Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation does not apply to ELRP 2023 and 2024; however, the payment limitation for ELRP 2023 and 2024 is determined by the person's or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income (income derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations). Specifically, a person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments for each year under ELRP 2023 and 2024 if their average adjusted gross farm income is less than 75 percent of their average AGI for the applicable base period. (2023 tax years are 2021, 2020, and 2019. 2024 tax years are 2022, 2021, and 2020.)

If at least 75 percent of the person or legal entity's average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities and the participant provides the required certification and documentation, as discussed below, the person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, up to \$250,000 in ELRP 2023 and 2024 payments.

To request the increased payment limitation, participants must file form FSA-510 complete with participant's certification their average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI and a certification from a Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Attorney that the participant meets the requirements. This form is required to be on file for both 2023 and 2024 to be eligible for the payment limitation exception.

Attribution of payments apply to ELRP 2023 and 2024 and payments to a legal entity are tracked through four levels of ownership, attributed, and limited to persons or legal entities that hold an ownership interest in the legal entity. For more information, see the Direct Attribution information on the **Payment Limitations** web page.