

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP):

- Clarify that state and federal grazing permit holders are eligible for these programs.
 - Streamline the ECP and EFRP permitting process: Allow the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to waive the 30-day public comment period for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applications during a drought emergency.
 - Allow the BLM to accept archeological reviews completed by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) field staff during a drought emergency.
 - Allow the BLM to accept NEPA and endangered species reviews completed by NRCS field staff.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP):

- Require ELAP honey bee assistance to factor in rates, including per-hive, per-colony, and per-standardized expected mortality, and require consistent documentation requirements.
- Expand honey producer coverage for losses and costs, including transportation related to adverse weather and drought.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP):

- Modify LFP to allow a one-month payment when a county reaches D2 (severe drought) for four consecutive weeks, compared to eight weeks under current law. When a county reaches D2 for eight consecutive weeks, it would be eligible for another month's payment.

U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM):

- Convene an interagency working group consisting of representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the state mesonet programs to develop recommendations to improve U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) data access, accuracy, and reliability.
- Require the U.S. Forest Service and the FSA to sign a memorandum of understanding related to coordinating drought-related designation and response activities.