



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Offers Retroactive Four County Wildfire Recovery Assistance for Winter Grazing Losses

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MANHATTAN, Kan., April 5, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding emergency wildfire recovery assistance through the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP) for producers who were impacted by the Four County Fire that started on Dec. 15, 2021. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is retroactively implementing a 365-day grazing period for perennial forage that was intended for grazing during calendar year 2021 in Ellis, Rooks, Russell and Osborne and contiguous counties.

Producers who raised grass and other forages that were left standing for winter grazing can soon apply for ELAP assistance. The 60-day special enrollment period opens April 8 and closes June 7, 2024, for 2021 winter grazing losses on native grass and perennial forage, caused by wildfires.

“To offer critical compensation to producers who suffered lost forage and grazing, FSA has modified the grazing period for 2021 wildfire losses to make these winter grazing losses — that were originally considered outside of the normal grazing period — eligible for ELAP assistance,” said Dennis McKinney, FSA State Executive Director in Kansas.

Eligibility

This expanded program policy only applies to losses on native grass or other perennial forage intended for grazing that would now qualify under the 365-day grazing period. Only losses caused by wildfire between Oct. 16 and Dec. 31, 2021, are eligible. Producers must have had a risk in the eligible grazing land and the eligible livestock at the time the loss condition occurred.

More Information

For more information on ELAP assistance or to apply, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.

To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

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