

USDA Approves Emergency Conservation Program and Emergency Forest Restoration Program Assistance in 2 Illinois Counties

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SPRINGFIELD, Illinois, July 2, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that two Illinois counties are accepting applications for the [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#) (EFRP) to address tornado and severe storm damages. The approved counties for EFRP signup are Marshall and Putnam counties. Signup for EFRP began July 1, 2024, and will end August 5, 2024.

“These programs help private forest landowners clean up and restore their private forests damaged by tornadoes and severe storms,” said Scott Halpin, State Executive Director for FSA in Illinois. “I encourage all eligible landowners to apply for assistance by the deadline. If you haven’t participated in FSA programs, contact your local FSA office as soon as possible to complete the process of establishing customer and farm records and to determine program eligibility.”

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

EFRP provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. The approved EFRP practice under this authorization is EF3 - Mixed Forest Restoration.

Because EFRP funds are allocated based on the number of applications submitted to FSA and the extent of damage as determined by on-site inspections, producers in need of EFRP assistance should submit applications to FSA as soon as possible and prior to starting any clean up.

After applications are received, local FSA county committees determine land eligibility using on-site damage inspections that assess the type and extent of damage and approve applications.

To meet EFRP eligibility requirements, NIPF land must have existing tree cover or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster event occurred and be sustainable for growing trees. The land must also be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land. The natural disaster

event must have resulted in damage that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and materially affect future use of the land.

More Information For more information on EFRP and other disaster recovery assistance, please contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) or visit the [disaster protection and recovery](#) page on [farmers.gov](#).

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