



• Commodities • Conservation • Credit • Crop Insurance • Energy •  
 • Forestry • Nutrition • Research, Extension, & Related Matters •  
 • Rural Development • Specialty Crops & Horticulture • Trade •

## Livestock Forage Program

### BACKGROUND

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on land that is native or improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing due to a qualifying drought. LFP is also available for producers who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by such agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

Under LFP, the producer who owns or leases grazing land or pastureland must be in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2, D3 or D4 drought classification. The amount of the payment is dependent upon the severity and length of the drought.

LFP payouts are limited to no more than \$125,000 in total payments for combined outlays under LFP, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

### ISSUE

During the recent drought, numerous farmers did not qualify for LFP assistance despite suffering a qualifying loss. This was particularly a problem for farmers that routinely perform a first cutting of hay prior to turning the land to pasture for the season. Producers who did this were disqualified from receiving LFP assistance on those acres. In addition, farmers who pasture animals under contract may also be ineligible if they are not under contract for 60 calendar days before the date of the qualifying drought or fire.

### OPTION #1

Amend the LFP so that taking a cutting of hay does not result in disqualification of that parcel from the program, but simply adjusts the “lost forage” for the hay that was harvested.

### OPTION #2

Allow farmers that have pastures under grazing contracts to qualify for the LFP as long as they are under contract before the date that the disaster is declared.