



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
 Statewide Drought Emergency
 Mission # 01162014-148

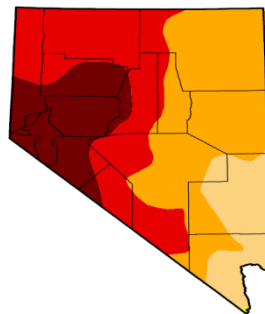
Situation Report #4
 June 2015

Drought Declaration

- Currently all 17 counties are under a Drought Emergency Declaration as designated by U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Carson D4 Exceptional Drought
- Churchill D4 Exceptional Drought
- Clark D2 Severe Drought
- Douglas D4 Exceptional Drought
- Elko D2 Extreme Drought
- Esmeralda D4 Exceptional Drought
- Eureka D3 Extreme Drought
- Humboldt D3 Extreme Drought
- Lander D4 Exceptional Drought
- Lincoln D2 Severe Drought
- Lyon D4 Exceptional Drought
- Mineral D4 Exceptional Drought
- Nye D3 Extreme Drought
- Pershing D4 Exceptional Drought
- Storey D4 Exceptional Drought
- Washoe D4 Exceptional Drought
- White Pine D2 Severe Drought

For more information on Nevada drought go to: <http://drought.nv.gov>

U.S. Drought Monitor Nevada



June 2, 2015
 (Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2015)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D4-D5	D4	D5
Current	0.00	100.00	99.93	95.99	49.45	18.38
Last Week 2/6/2015	0.00	100.00	99.93	95.99	49.45	18.38
3 Months Ago 3/3/2015	0.00	100.00	99.93	93.84	47.06	18.38
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2015	0.00	100.00	95.95	68.25	48.38	11.89
Start of Water Year 9/1/2014	0.00	100.00	97.04	69.89	45.38	11.89
One Year Ago 6/2/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	87.83	38.73	8.24

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for financial statements.
 Author: David Maidment
 WSA@NWS/NCEP/CPC

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

County Resource Requests

- No requests have been submitted to the SEOC at this time.

Wildfires

- The Western Great Basin Coordination Center reports no new wildfires in the past week that grew beyond initial attack.

USDA press releases

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=LATEST_RELEASES

USDA disaster and drought assistance

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=DISASTER_ASSISTANCE

FSA disaster assistance program (links to information, e-mail list

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topi>

Drought Impact on Agriculture

Drought prompts disaster declaration

<http://www.agweb.com/article/drought-prompts-disaster-declaration-for-most-of-nevada-NAA-associated-press/>

NDWR water level data <http://water.nv.gov/data/waterlevel/>

USGS water level, stream flow, etc. data

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nv/nwis>

Desert Research Institute Drought Dashboard

<http://www.gbdash.dri.edu/>

Drought Impact on Habitat

BLM Planning and Sage Grouse

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/elko_o_field_office/information/communications_forum/02_29_12.Par.65994.File.dat/Planning%20and%20Sage%20Grouse.pdf

Successful Conservation Planning Keeps Sage

Grouse Off of Endangered Species List

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/successful-conservation-partnership-keeps-bi-state-sage-grouse-off-endangered-species-list.cfm>

Drought Impact on Municipal Water Systems

- None reported for the month



Other Information

Emergency Disaster Programs Administered by the Farm Service Agency

TYPE OF LOSS SUFFERED	CROP LOSS	LIVESTOCK LOSS	DAMAGED FARM PROPERTY
	For production losses, both quantity and quality, for most agricultural crops including grains, oilseeds, forage, grazing, cotton, nursery, aquaculture, floriculture, honey, maple sap, seed crops, Christmas trees and more.	For death and feed losses for livestock, farm raised fish, honeybee colonies and hives.	For physical losses to crops, livestock, real estate, real estate improvements, machinery and equipment. Farmland damage including debris removal, repairing of fence and conservation structures, and providing water to livestock.
What FSA disaster programs are available?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NAP - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to cover production losses for crops when federal crop insurance is not available. 2. SURE - Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program for crop losses in counties declared a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture. 3. TAP - Tree Assistance Program for tree losses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program for livestock death not covered by LIP; for grazing losses not covered by LFP; for farm-raised fish and honeybee death and feed losses. 5. LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program for grazing losses. 6. LIP - Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock deaths. 7. CRP - Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought or similar natural disaster. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. ECP - Emergency Conservation Program to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. EM - Emergency Loans provides loans to restore or replace essential property damaged in the disaster, finance production losses to crops and livestock; fund essential family living and farm operating expenses, or refinance certain debts. 10. DSA - Disaster Set-Aside for producers who have direct loans with FSA and are unable to make the scheduled installment due, to move one full year's payment to the end of the loan. 		
Must coverage be obtained before the disaster strikes?	You must purchase federal crop insurance or NAP coverage before the disaster strikes to be eligible for SURE, TAP, ELAP, and LFP. Exceptions to this requirement are made for limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers. You do not need to purchase federal crop insurance or NAP coverage prior to applying for ECP, EM, DSA, or emergency haying and grazing.		
How do I know if I am eligible for assistance?	Locate your local FSA Service Center at: http://offices.USDA.gov Visit FSA's disaster web page at: http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov		

For losses due to natural disasters such as drought, floods, hurricanes, blizzards, wild fires, disease.





Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
 Statewide Drought Emergency
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United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
 1400 Independence Ave, SW
 Washington, DC 20250
www.fsa.usda.gov

News Release

Latawnya Dia
 202-690-7962
Latawnya.Dia@wdc.usda.gov
 Release 0012.15

USDA Designates 11 Counties and Carson City in Nevada as Primary Natural Disaster Areas With Assistance to Producers in Surrounding States

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2015 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 11 counties and Carson City in Nevada as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by a recent drought. Those counties are:

Churchill	Humboldt	Nye
Clark	Lander	Pershing
Douglas	Lyon	Washoe
Esmeralda	Mineral	

"Our hearts go out to those Nevada farmers and ranchers affected by recent natural disasters," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I are committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation's economy by sustaining the successes of America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through these difficult times. We're also telling Nevada producers that USDA stands with you and your communities when severe weather and natural disasters threaten to disrupt your livelihood."

Farmers and ranchers in Elko, Eureka, Lincoln, Storey and White Pine counties in **Nevada** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous.

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in **Arizona, California, Idaho** and **Oregon** also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are:

Arizona

Mohave

California

Alpine	El Dorado	Inyo	Lassen
Modoc	Nevada	Mono	Placer
San Bernardino	Sierra		

Idaho

Owyhee

Oregon

Harney, Lake and Malheur

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on Feb. 4, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, [The Livestock Forage Disaster Program](#), the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#), the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#), and the [Tree Assistance Program](#). Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA news releases are available on FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> via the "Newsroom" link.



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148



Executive Order 2015-03

ORDER ESTABLISHING THE NEVADA DROUGHT FORUM

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada is entering its fourth year of drought and a majority of Nevada counties have been designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture as primary or contiguous natural disaster areas due to extreme or exceptional drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, throughout the last four years, many locations in Nevada have received approximately 65% or less of the normal annual precipitation, resulting in a cumulative precipitation deficit of over one year's worth of precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Climate Prediction Center has forecast in its United States Seasonal Drought Outlook that drought conditions in Nevada will intensify over the coming months; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Western Governors' Association (WGA), I created the Western Governors' Drought Forum in order to foster a regional dialogue where states and industry can identify and share case studies and best practices for drought policy, preparedness and management; and

WHEREAS, I will release the Western Governors' Drought Forum Final Report that will identify key findings and next steps at the WGA Round Table in late June, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management; and the Office of the Nevada State Climatologist are active members of the State of Nevada Drought Response Committee and have been continuously monitoring drought conditions throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, since the summer of 2014, the State Engineer of the Nevada Division of Water Resources has conducted a public outreach program to provide water-related information to the public and to listen to public concerns, with drought the topic most actively discussed; and

WHEREAS, the State Engineer has the authority to make rules, regulations and orders in groundwater basins where he determines additional management is necessary for the essential welfare of the area involved; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Division of Emergency Management has the authority to coordinate activities of all emergency management organizations in the State and to support State and local agencies in developing comprehensive plans to address drought; and

WHEREAS, I have activated the State Emergency Operations Center to maintain situational awareness on the impacts of drought across the State; and

WHEREAS, the State has collaborated with the Desert Research Institute and the Nevada Climate Office to maintain a website that provides information about current drought conditions, and specific drought recovery resources; and

WHEREAS, all Nevadans can play a role in addressing this critical issue through conservation; and



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides: "The supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Nevada, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The Nevada Drought Forum is hereby established to:
 - a. Build on the activities of the existing Nevada Drought Response Committee;
 - b. Evaluate key findings and next steps identified in the Western Governors' Drought Forum Final Report as they relate to Nevada;
 - c. Meet with relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, agricultural producers, municipal water suppliers, the industrial sector, recreation interests, Tribal Nations, and members of the general public; and
 - d. Determine, with input from stakeholders and the public, the elements of a final report to the Governor.
2. The Nevada Drought Forum shall be comprised of the following appointees:
 - a. The Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
 - b. The Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture;
 - c. The State Engineer of the Nevada Division of Water Resources;
 - d. The Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management;
 - e. The Nevada State Climatologist;
 - f. The Dean of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension;
 - g. A representative of the Desert Research Institute;
 - h. A representative of the Southern Nevada Water Authority; and
 - i. Any other members whom the Governor deems necessary.
3. The Nevada Department of Administration, Division of Buildings and Grounds shall conduct a water audit of all State facilities and common areas to identify leaks or excessive water usage, and to evaluate all possible conservation efforts including replacement of old fixtures that consume excessive water.
4. All State agencies shall endeavor to implement practicable water conservation strategies in and around State facilities.
5. All local governments and private citizens are urged to conserve water and to conduct water audits in consultation with local water authorities.
6. All State agencies with responsibilities associated to drought and drought conditions shall provide a summary of current actions and related authorities to the Nevada Drought Forum by May 15, 2015.
7. Municipal water providers and agencies of the federal government are requested to provide a summary of current and planned actions related to the drought and drought conditions to the Nevada Drought Forum by May 15, 2015.
8. The Nevada Drought Forum shall prepare a Nevada Summary of Current Actions of local, State and federal entities by June 15, 2015.
9. The Nevada Drought Forum shall receive the WGA Drought Forum Final Report when it is released.
10. The Nevada Drought Forum shall, by July 1, 2015, provide interested stakeholders the work of the WGA Drought Forum, the Nevada Summary of Current Actions, an outline of possible topics and objectives for stakeholder discussions, and issue an additional call for specific information.
11. By the end of August 2015, interested stakeholders may provide to the Nevada Drought Forum a summary of current actions and challenges relevant to the final WGA drought recommendations, together with any other specific information sought by the Nevada Drought Forum.



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

12. The Nevada Drought Forum shall convene a multi-day stakeholder Drought Summit in September 2015.
13. The Nevada Drought Forum shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Governor on or before November 1, 2015.
14. The Nevada Drought Forum shall prepare a bi-weekly statewide drought summary with current drought impacts and key information for the public until such time that the summary is no longer warranted.
15. Any State agency or entity, including the Nevada Center of Excellence for Innovations and Solutions in Water Resources, through the Governor's Office of Economic Development, may be called upon by the Nevada Drought Forum to provide assistance.
16. The Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, shall provide administrative support for the Nevada Drought Forum.
17. Activities of the Nevada Drought Forum shall be subject to the requirements of the Nevada Open Meeting Law pursuant to NRS Chapter 241.
18. All records documenting activities of the Nevada Drought Forum shall be retained and transferred to the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records for retention in accordance with State policy.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 8th day of April, in the year two thousand fifteen.


Governor of the State of Nevada

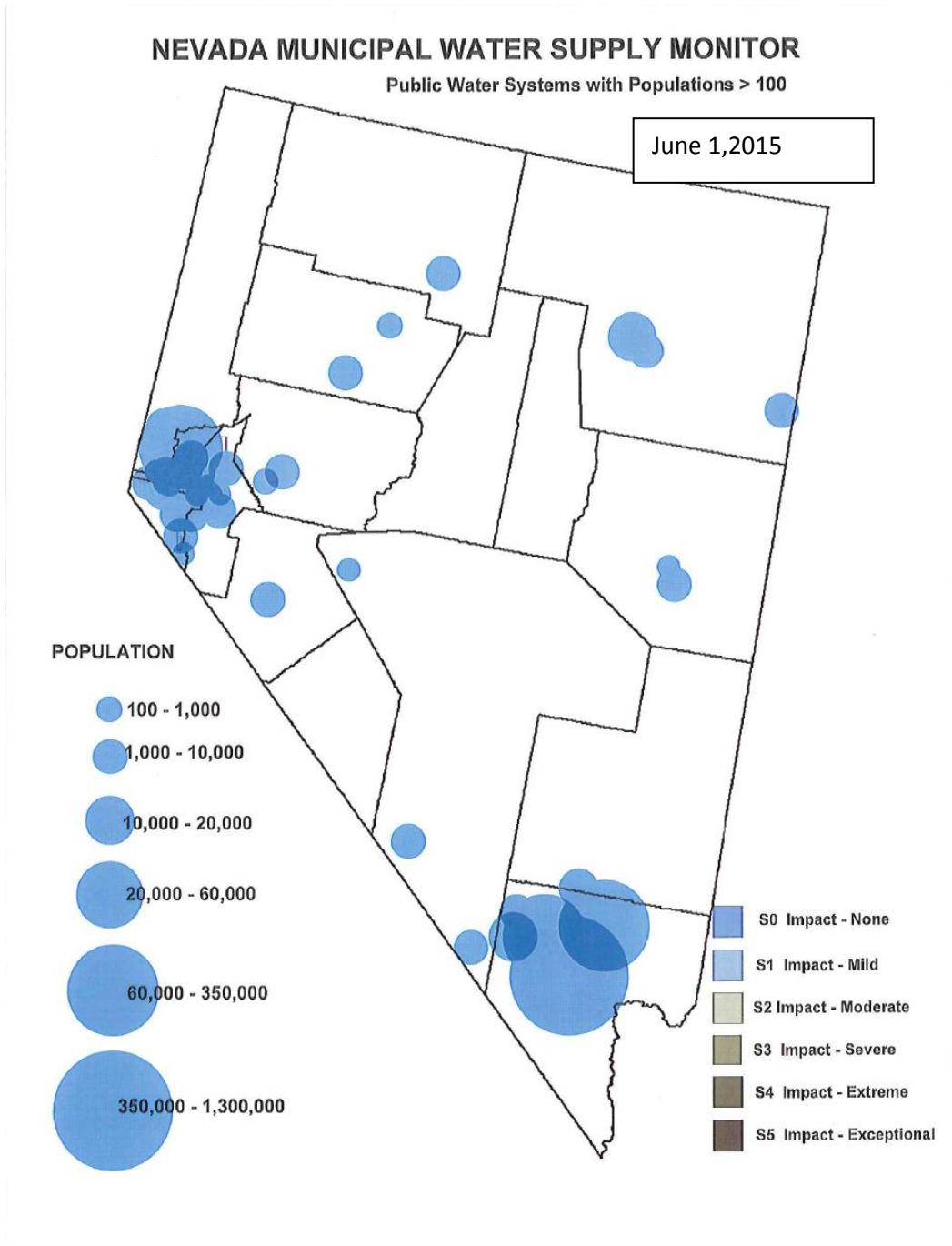
By the Governor:


Secretary of State

Deputy Secretary of State



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148





Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

March 2015

Emergency Loan Program

Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine.

Loan Uses

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation and;
- Refinance certain debts.

Eligibility

Emergency loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who:

- Own or operate land located in a county declared by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area or quarantine area. All counties contiguous to the declared, designated, or quarantined primary counties also are eligible for emergency loans. A disaster designation by the FSA administrator authorizes emergency loan assistance for physical losses only in the designated and contiguous counties;
- Are established family farm operators and have sufficient farming or ranching experience;
- Are citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property;
- Have an acceptable credit history;
- Are unable to receive credit from commercial sources;
- Can provide collateral to secure the loan and;
- Have repayment ability.

Loan Requirements

FSA loan requirements are different from those of other lenders. Some of the more significant differences are the following:

- Borrowers must keep acceptable farm records;
- Borrowers must operate in accordance with a farm plan they develop and agree to with local FSA staff and;
- Borrowers may be required to participate in a financial management training program and obtain crop insurance.



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

Collateral is Required

All emergency loans must be fully collateralized. The specific type of collateral may vary depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and the individual circumstances of the applicant. If applicants cannot provide adequate collateral, their repayment ability may be considered as collateral to secure the loan. A first lien is required on property or products acquired, produced or refinanced with loan funds.

Loan Limit

Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

Loan Terms

Loans for crop, livestock and non-real estate losses are normally repaid within one to seven years, depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and collateral available as loan security. In special circumstances, terms of up to 20 years may be authorized. Loans for physical losses to real estate are normally repaid within 30 years. In certain circumstances, repayment may be made over a maximum of 40 years.

Current Interest Rate

To find the current emergency loan interest rate, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=fir.

Application Deadline

Applications for emergency loans must be received within eight months of the county's disaster or quarantine designation date.

For More Information

For more information on FSA disaster assistance, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/>. For more information on FSA farm loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans. Further information about this and other FSA programs is available from local FSA offices or on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

**Nevada State Farm
Service Agency**
1365 Corporate Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89502
775.857.8500

www.fsa.usda.gov/nv

State Committee:
Karen Wesner, Chair
Jim Christison
Vince Garcia
Marcia Litsinger
David Perazzo

State Executive Director:
Clint Koble
775.857.8500 x 128

Farm Program/Loan Chief:
Janice Kolvet
775.857.8500 x 120

District Director:
Gus Wegren
775.857.8500 x 143

Farm Loan Manager:
Micki Wines
775.738.6445 x 105

Please contact your local FSA
Office for questions specific to
your operation or county.

Elko FSA Office:
775.738.6445

Ely FSA Office:
775.289.4990

Fallon FSA Office:
775.423.5124

Lovelock FSA Office:
775.273.2922

Winnemucca FSA Office:
775.623.5025

Yerington FSA Office:
775.463.2855

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015
- An application for payment by November 1, 2015

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center Statewide Drought Emergency Mission # 01162014-148

reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file both of the following:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016
- An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Provides One-Time Extension of Deadline to Update Base Acres or Yield History for ARC/PLC Programs

Farmers Now Have Until March 31 to Update Yields and Reallocate Base Acres; Deadline for Choosing Between ARC and PLC also Remains March 31

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that a one-time extension will be provided to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended one additional month, from Feb. 27, 2015 until March 31, 2015. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains March 31, 2015.

If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by March 31, 2015, the farm's current yield and base will be used. A program choice of ARC or PLC coverage also must be made by March 31, 2015, or there will be no 2014 payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage through the 2018 crop year.

Nationwide, more than 2.9 million educational postcards, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), have been sent to producers, and over 4,100 training sessions have been conducted on the new safety-net programs. The online tools, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, allow producers to explore projections on



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

how ARC or PLC coverage will affect their operation under possible future scenarios.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

To learn more, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office. To find your local office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Department Implementing New Farm Bill Programs, Unveiling New Centralized Online Resource to Support Next Generation of Farmers

USDA has announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA also unveiled www.USDA.gov/newfarmers, a new website that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

USDA's www.usda.gov/newfarmers has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access USDA education, and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations.

Today's policy announcements in support of beginning farmers and ranchers include:

. Waiving service fees for new and beginning farmers or ranchers to enroll in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the 2014 crop year. NAP provides risk management tools to farmers who grow crops for which there is no crop insurance product. Under this waiver, announced via an [official notice](#) to Farm Service Agency offices, farmers and ranchers whom already enrolled in NAP for the 2014 crop year and certified to being a beginning farmer or social disadvantaged farmer are eligible for a service fee refund.

. Eliminating payment reductions under the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#) for new and beginning farmers which will allow routine, prescribed, and emergency grazing outside the primary nesting season on enrolled land consistent with approved conservation plans. Previously, farmers and ranchers grazing on CRP land were subject to a reduction in CRP payments of up to 25 percent. Waiving these reductions for new and beginning farmers will provide extra financial support during times of emergency like drought and other natural disasters.

. Increasing payment rates to beginning farmers and ranchers under Emergency Assistance for [Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#). Under this provision, beginning farmers can claim up to 90 percent of losses for lost livestock, such as bees, under ELAP. This is a fifty percent increase over previously available payment amounts to new and beginning farmers.

In the near future, USDA will also announce additional crop insurance program changes for beginning farmers and ranchers – including discounted premiums, waiver of administrative fees, and other benefits.

Additional information about USDA actions in support of beginning farmers and ranchers is



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

available [here](#).

LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP)

Producers in Nevada are eligible to apply for 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on grazing losses.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

For 2015 and subsequent years, eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Reminds Nevada Producers of March 16 Sales Closing Date for Noninsurable Crops

Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers who want to purchase coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to do so before the sales closing date of March 16, 2015.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) allows producers to choose higher levels of NAP coverage. Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. It is important to note that the higher coverage is not available on grazing crops.

The following crops in Nevada have a NAP application closing date of March 16, 2015: Corn, Watermelon, Millet.

Eligible producers must file the application and pay a service fee by the March 16 deadline. Producers also pay a fixed premium for higher coverage. Beginning, limited resource and underserved producers may request a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction when the application for coverage is filed.



Nevada State Emergency Operations Center
Statewide Drought Emergency
Mission # 01162014-148

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved groups.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
