

USDA --- Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)

Lawrence County has recently been approved for ELRP due to the flooding that occurred last September from Hurricane Helene. I have attached a fact sheet with the specifics of the program. Producers will need to have a list of cattle numbers that they had on the farm during September of 2024, the time of the flooding. Cattle producers will need the number of adult cattle, calves over 500 and calves under 500 pounds. Goats and sheep are also eligible for the program. The Farm Service Agency is now open with a limited number of staff allowed to work. They are accepting ELRP applications. Though the initial deadline was set for October 31st, the USDA announced on Friday that due to the government shutdown the deadline has now been extended to November 21st.

Tennessee Forage & Grassland Council Meeting

The Tennessee Forage & Grassland Council (TFGC) will host its 2025 Annual Meeting on **Friday, November 7**, at the **Lane Agri-Park Auditorium in Murfreesboro**. This year's theme, "*Celebrating Our State's Best Resource*," will highlight forage as the foundation of Tennessee's livestock systems. The program includes expert presentations on soil fertility, hay economics, and forage budgeting, along with a producer panel, conservation updates, and a hands-on forage plot tour. Also on the program is our very own Bill Legg who will be one of the guest speakers. [Registration](#) is \$50 per person and includes lunch and annual TFGC/AFGC dues. More details and online registration are available at utbeef.tennessee.edu/tennessee-forage-grassland-council.

Bull Selection Seminars

The Middle TN AgResearch and Education Center will be hosting two **Bull Selection Seminars** coming up on **November 6th and 18th at 6:00 p.m.** Both seminars are **free** and open to anyone interested in attending! Dinner will be served. Guests are also welcome to arrive early for an opportunity to view the bulls in person before the seminar begins. Please RSVP to Ashley Savage at savage15@utk.edu. **Location:** MTREC – Lewisburg 1070 New Lake Rd. Lewisburg, TN 37091

Be Cautious Of Frosted Sorghum, Sudan Grasses and Johnsongrass

Every fall when the temperatures begin to cool down we anticipate the arrival of our first frost and freeze. Cattle producers should be aware of the dangers of frosted Sorghum/Sudan Grasses and Johnson Grass and promptly remove cattle on these pastures to avoid the potential of toxicity from prussic acid poisoning. Prussic acid poisoning occurs when animals consume plants that contain high levels of prussic acid, a form of cyanide. The same issue is noted with wilting wild cherry leaves which often occur when limbs are knocked down in pastures after a storm. Potentially toxic levels of prussic acid can develop in Sorghum X Sudangrass hybrids immediately after a frost, or in new growth after a drought. Prussic acid interferes with the ability of red blood cells to transfer oxygen. Symptoms include excessive salivation, rapid breathing and muscle spasms. Symptoms may occur within 10 to 15 minutes after the animal consumes the forage high in prussic acid conditions. Forage that has been dried to 18 percent moisture for hay or that has fermented for haylage will not have high levels of prussic acid, but standing Sorghums/ Sudan Grasses and Johnsongrass can be toxic after a frost for 10-14 days.

Calvin Bryant
Extension Director
UT/TSU Extension Lawrence County

“Celebrating our State’s Best Resource”



November 7, 2025 - 8:30 AM CT

Lane Agri-Park - Auditorium

315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Topics Included:

- Connecting Soil Health and Soil Fertility in Forage Systems
- Hay Quality v. Supplementation Cost
- Forage Budgeting
- Hear from Your Peers: Producer Panel
- TN State Fair Best of Fair Hay Winners
- Trade show and Lunch Provided
- Cost: \$50 Registration Fee

Partnerships



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Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)

Flood and Wildfire: 2023 and 2024



Background

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) 2023 and 2024 Flood and Wildfire (FW) is part of the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) implementation of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025, Division B of the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158), which provides \$30.7 billion in much needed assistance for agricultural producers in calendar years 2023 and 2024, including \$2 billion specifically targeted for livestock producers impacted by drought, wildfires, or floods.

Overview

ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW will provide approximately \$1 billion as authorized to assist livestock producers who incurred losses as a result of increased supplement feed costs due to a qualifying flood or wildfire in calendar year 2023 and/or 2024. Wildfire assistance is limited to qualifying wildfires occurring on non-federally managed lands. ELRP 2023 and 2024 Drought and Wildfire provided \$1 billion in assistance to livestock producers for losses due to qualifying drought and wildfire in calendar years 2023 and 2024 using producer data already on file with FSA through participation in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). Wildfire assistance through that announcement was limited to wildfires occurring on federally managed lands.

Qualifying Disaster Events

FSA has determined that a qualifying flood means a severe and extreme flooding event that causes widespread destruction, significant property and crop damage, livestock loss and displacement, and major economic loss to infrastructure and the environment, typically overwhelming local flood defenses and response systems.

Qualifying wildfire means an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in natural areas like forests, grasslands, or brushlands on non-federally managed lands. These fires can be started by natural causes like lightning, or human activities, and they consume vegetation and spread based on environmental conditions. Wildfires that are planned, intentional or prescribed burns are not eligible.

To streamline program delivery and reduce the burden on applicants, FSA has confirmed that qualifying floods and wildfires have occurred in several affected counties based on disaster designations (including Secretarial disaster designations, Presidential declarations, and FSA Administrator's physical loss notifications), weather data, and reported economic impacts. For losses in these counties, which have been approved by FSA, livestock producers are not required to submit supporting documentation of the qualifying disaster event.

For losses in counties that have not been approved by FSA, livestock producers must provide supporting documentation to substantiate that a qualifying flood or qualifying wildfire occurred in the county where their livestock were physically located, or normally would have been located in the absence of the disaster event. Qualifying event eligibility is subject to the county committee's determination that the disaster event meets the specific criteria established for a qualifying flood or qualifying wildfire.

Acceptable documentation includes but is not limited to:

- Photographs that document the impact a qualified disaster event had on the producer's livestock, showing extensive damage to land and property;

For More Info

USDA launched the **2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page** where the status of USDA disaster assistance and block grant rollout timeline can be tracked.

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by **drought** and **wildfire** and the **Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool**, **Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet**, and **Farm Loan Discovery Tool**.

A list of counties approved by FSA is available in FSA county offices and at fsa.usda.gov/elrp.





- Documentation that indicates high economic losses, loss and displacement of livestock, and damage to infrastructure;
- Insurance documentation;
- Reports of a declared emergency area by local, state, or federal authorities;
- Any documentation that supports long term recovery needs such as debris removal or property or land repair;
- News articles;
- NOAA storm event database records;
- Other FSA disaster program participation records; and
- Any other documentation determined acceptable by the county committee.

ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW will compensate eligible producers for the equivalent of 60 percent of one month of the calculated monthly feed costs for the producer's livestock inventories for a qualifying wildfire and three months of the calculated monthly feed costs for a qualifying flood, using the same monthly feed cost calculation that is used for LFP.

Producer Eligibility

Producer eligibility aligns with LFP and previous ELRP programs. To be eligible for ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW, persons or legal entities must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership organized under State law consisting of U.S. citizens or resident aliens, a legal entity organized under State law consisting of U.S. citizens or resident aliens, or an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization defined in the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act that:

- Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock on the beginning date of a qualifying flood or wildfire occurring in calendar year 2023 or 2024;
- Is an owner, operator, or other tenant associated with a tract or field in FSA Farm Records for the applicable program year for the physical location where the qualifying disaster event occurred and affected the producer's livestock; and
- Certify that they have suffered increased supplemental feed costs due to a qualifying flood or wildfire in calendar year 2023 or 2024.

Livestock Eligibility

As of the beginning date of the qualifying disaster, covered livestock must have been physically located in, or in the absence of the qualifying disaster, would have been located in the county where the disaster event occurred in 2023 or 2024. Livestock that were relocated from the eligible county due to the imminent threat may be eligible.

Categories of eligible covered livestock for ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW are consistent with the kind, type, and weight class of eligible livestock for LFP and previous ELRP programs, livestock that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition from forage. This includes weaned beef cattle, dairy cattle, beefalo, buffalo, bison, alpacas, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, ostriches, reindeer, or sheep.

As with LFP, livestock eligible for ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW must:

- Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower on the beginning date of a qualifying flood or wildfire;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the qualifying flood or wildfire.
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or animals used for racing or wagering, hunting, or consumption by the owner); and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying flood or wildfire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner or contract grower.

At the time of application, eligible livestock producers must provide documentation to support the livestock inventories, as of the beginning date of the qualifying disaster event as reported on the FSA-970, Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) 2023 and 2024 FW Application.

This includes but is not limited to: feed records, inventory records, daily milking records, veterinary records, canceled check documentation of livestock purchases, balance sheets, inventory records used for tax purposes, loan records, property tax records, brand inspection records, sales and purchase receipts, private insurance documents, chattel inspections, contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the event, shearing and docking records, ear tag records, and trucking or livestock hauling records.

How to Apply

The application period begins opens on **September 15, 2025**. To be eligible for an ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW payment, a livestock producer must submit the following for the applicable program year(s) by **October 31, 2025**:

- FSA-970, Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) 2023 and 2024 FW Application
- Supporting documentation of livestock inventories as of the beginning date of the qualifying disaster event reported on FSA-970
- Supporting documentation of the qualifying disaster event(s) reported on FSA-970 (if applicable)
- Supporting documentation to establish or update FSA's farm records to support and verify the livestock producer's physical location of their livestock (if applicable)
- Copy of the producer's contract grower agreement (if applicable)
- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet
- SF-3881, Direct Deposit

Livestock producers must also submit the following forms to FSA by **Nov. 2, 2026**, to be eligible for payment:

- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable)
- Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland (WC) Certification, for the ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW producer and applicable affiliates
- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if applicable).

ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW Payment Calculation

The ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW payment rates provided in the table below are based on 60 percent of the monthly feed cost per 1 animal unit (AU), as determined by the FSA, for the applicable calendar year, using the same current AU conversion rates as LFP. A qualifying wildfire payment rate equates to one month of calculated feed costs, and a qualifying flood payment rate equates to three months of calculated feed costs. Due to limited funding, a payment factor may be applied to the payment calculation

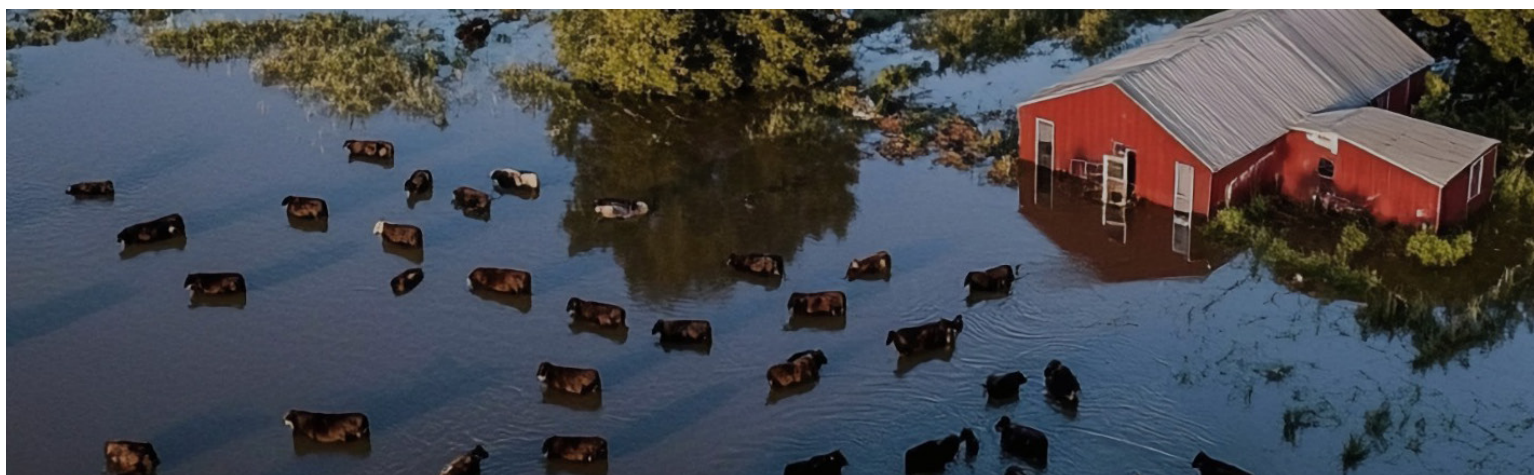
ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW will use the information reported on the producer's FSA-970 for the applicable program year, as the basis for ELRP payments. FSA will calculate final payments after the application period, according to the following:

1. The number of eligible livestock (by kind, type, and weight range) on the beginning date of the qualifying disaster event, multiplied by;
2. Producer share, multiplied by;
3. The applicable ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW Payment Rate (see table below for payment rates), which equals;
4. The gross ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW payment, multiplied by;
5. An ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW payment factor, if applicable, to be determined not exceed the funding authorized.

Eligible producers may receive payment for one or both years, and they may receive payments for multiple qualifying disaster events, if applicable, not to exceed three months of assistance per producer per physical location county and per program year.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation does not apply to ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW; however, the payment limitation for ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW is determined by the person's or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income (income derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations). Specifically, a person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments for each year under ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW if their average adjusted gross farm income is less than 75 percent of their average AGI for the applicable base period. (2023 tax years are 2021, 2020, and 2019. 2024 tax years are 2022, 2021, and 2020.)



If at least 75 percent of the person or legal entity's average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities and the participant provides the required certification and documentation, as discussed below, the person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, up to \$250,000 in ELRP 2023 and 2024 payments. For payment limitation purposes, payments under ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW and the previous ELRP 2023 and 2024 will be combined for each program year.

To request the increased payment limitation, participants must file form FSA-510 complete with participant's certification their average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI and a certification from a Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Attorney that the participant meets the requirements. This form is required to be on file for both 2023 and 2024 to be eligible for the payment limitation exception.

Attribution of payments apply to ELRP 2023 and 2024 FW and payments to a legal entity are tracked through four levels of ownership, attributed, and limited to persons or legal entities that hold an ownership interest in the legal entity.

For more information, see the Direct Attribution information on the [Payment Limitations web page](#).

ELRP 2023 AND 2024 FLOOD AND WILDFIRE PAYMENT RATES

LIVESTOCK KIND	TYPE/WEIGHT RANGE	2023 ELRP WILDFIRE PAYMENT RATE (1 MONTH)	2023 ELRP FLOOD PAYMENT RATE (3 MONTHS)	2024 ELRP WILDFIRE PAYMENT RATE (1 MONTH)	2024 ELRP FLOOD PAYMENT RATE (3 MONTHS)
Beef	Adult Cows and Bulls	\$34.87	\$104.61	\$31.54	\$94.62
	Non adult 500 lbs. or more	\$26.15	\$78.45	\$23.65	\$70.95
	Non adult less than 500 lbs.	\$17.44	\$52.32	\$15.77	\$47.31
Dairy	Adult Cows and Bulls	\$90.67	\$272.01	\$82.00	\$246.00
	Non adult 500 lbs. or more	\$26.15	\$78.45	\$23.65	\$70.95
	Non adult less than 500 lbs.	\$17.44	\$52.32	\$15.77	\$47.31
Buffalo, Bison, Beefalo	Adult Cows and Bulls	\$34.87	\$104.61	\$31.54	\$94.62
	Non adult 500 lbs. or more	\$26.15	\$78.45	\$23.65	\$70.95
	Non adult less than 500 lbs.	\$17.44	\$52.32	\$15.77	\$47.31
Sheep	All	\$8.72	\$26.16	\$7.88	\$23.64
Goats	All	\$8.72	\$26.16	\$7.88	\$23.64
Deer	All	\$8.72	\$26.16	\$7.88	\$23.64
Equine	All	\$25.81	\$77.43	\$23.34	\$70.02
Elk	All	\$18.83	\$56.49	\$17.03	\$51.09
Reindeer	All	\$7.68	\$23.04	\$6.94	\$20.82
Alpacas	All	\$7.68	\$23.04	\$6.94	\$20.82
Emus	All	\$17.85	\$53.55	\$16.14	\$48.42
Llamas	All	\$12.73	\$38.19	\$11.51	\$34.53
Ostrich	All	\$19.18	\$57.54	\$17.34	\$52.02