

**Disaster Assistance Programs:  
Be Aware of What You May Need to Benefit From**

Marina Arouca, Rod Clouser, John VanSickle

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers assistance for natural disaster losses resulting from drought, flood, fire, freeze, tornados, pest infestation and other catastrophes.

Much of the funding comes from the restructuring of farm support, with the elimination of some traditional programs like direct payments. With that, the 2014 Farm Bill extended indefinitely four of the five disaster programs that were previously authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance, or SURE, was not reauthorized but producers can protect against farm-level revenue losses if signed up for ARC Individual (Agricultural Risk Coverage).

Also, to sign up for one of the following programs the producers are no longer required to acquire crop insurance or NAP coverage (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program).

Understand your options:

• **Livestock Forage Program (LFP)**

“Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing.”

*Sign-up:*

Producers must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

More detailed information on eligibility and payment calculations can be found [here](#).

• **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**

“Provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government.”

*Sign-up:*

Producers must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their local FSA office the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent, or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

More detailed information on eligibility and payment calculations can be found [here](#).

• **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)**

“Provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by LFP and LIP.”

*Sign-up:*

Producers must file a notice of loss no later than 30 days after loss is apparent. November 1<sup>st</sup> after the program year is the final date to submit application for payment.

More detailed information on eligibility and payment calculations can be found [here](#).

- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**

“Provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. The individual stand must have sustained a mortality loss or damage loss in excess of 15 percent after adjustment for normal mortality.”

*Sign-up:*

Orchardists and nursery tree growers must submit application and supporting documentation the later of 90 days from the disaster event, or the date when the loss is apparent.

More detailed information on eligibility and payment calculations can be found [here](#).

- If you are a citrus grower, TAP recognizes **citrus greening** (Huanglongbing, or HLB) and provides financial assistance to replace trees that meet the mortality criterion within a time period of up to six years. Cost sharing may be approved for planting costs per eligible tree and site preparation per acre. Only groves used for commercial purposes are eligible, thus abandoned groves are not eligible for TAP.
  - Find specific information for citrus support through TAP at our [UF Extension EDIS publications](#) and at the [FSA/USDA website](#).

The FSA provides monthly reports, summaries and disaster designation maps across the country. Check the [Disaster Assistance Program website](#) for full access to this data.

Currently (last updated on 9/16/2015), **Florida** has **10 counties**, primary and contiguous, listed under the secretarial disaster designations for the 2015 crop year: Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach.

Stay Informed! Find details on other 2014 Farm Bill initiatives in companion information sheets.

**Visit our website** 2014 Farm Bill Education Program at <http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/featured-3-menus/extension/farm-bill/>.

Have any questions or concerns? **Contact us!**

John VanSickle [sickle@ufl.edu](mailto:sickle@ufl.edu)

Rod Clouser [rclouser@ufl.edu](mailto:rclouser@ufl.edu)

Marina Arouca [arouca@ufl.edu](mailto:arouca@ufl.edu)