

USDA Reminds Producers of Disaster Payment Programs

(KLZA) -- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Dan Steinkruger, today informed farmers and ranchers that they can sign-up for disaster assistance programs, reestablished and strengthened by the 2014 Farm Bill. Sign-up for disaster assistance programs started April 15, 2014.

“USDA FSA has made the implementation of the disaster assistance programs a priority since President Obama signed the Agricultural Act of 2014 on February 7, 2014,” said Steinkruger. “The implementation of these programs will provide disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered previous losses or are currently experiencing severe drought.”

The disaster assistance programs consist of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). These programs provide assistance to farmers and rancher that suffered eligible losses on or after October 1, 2011. In addition, the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) is available for orchardists and nursery tree growers who suffered disaster losses.

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on federally managed land. ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish that have suffered losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as wildfires.

“All farmers and ranchers that experienced a loss are encouraged to contact their local FSA County Office,” said Steinkruger.

Producers also are encouraged to contact their County Office ahead of time to schedule an appointment.