



United States Department of Agriculture

July 21, 2008

USDA Announces New Forage Disaster Program for 2008 – 2007

Disaster Program Enrollment Continues.

California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) encourages every producer in counties affected by drought or fire to meet with their local USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) representative as soon as possible to discuss their options.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses because of drought on private or public land or fire on rangeland managed by a Federal agency if normal permit use is restricted. Unlike previous disaster programs, LFP eligibility will require non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage or some other form of insurance to be purchased before the growing season and will be based upon county Drought Monitor readings rather than requiring a disaster designation by the Secretary of Agriculture. Payments for the program will be 60 percent of the monthly calculated feed cost of Drought Monitor readings of "severe" and increased by readings of "extreme" and "exceptional".

Because LFP is new in 2008, FSA has provided a one-time waiver to allow producers who did not purchase NAP coverage during the enrollment period last year to become eligible by purchasing \$100 NAP coverage per county by September 16. This waiver will provide LFP eligibility but will not provide NAP coverage for 2008 since the normal deadline has passed.

CCA encourages every producer in counties affected by drought or public lands fires to meet with their local FSA representative as soon as possible to discuss their options for 2007 and 2008. Producers should also consider establishing eligibility for both 2009 NAP and LFP coverage for forage, available for \$250 per county until December 1.

For more information, contact your local FSA field office. For Alameda County this is the Stockton FSA Office at 3422 Hammer Lane Ste C. Stockton, CA 95219
Phone 209-472-7127