

USDA DROUGHT DISASTER ASSISTANCE GUIDE

August 18, 2008



California producers who have experienced losses due to drought can use this guide to examine recovery assistance options available under the 2008 Farm Bill. USDA agencies in California are working together to help producers manage risk and recover when natural disasters adversely impact operations. To find your nearest local office, visit the websites or call the numbers shown for USDA agencies.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL USDA OFFICE OR CALL:

Farm Service Agency
530-792-5520

Natural Resources Conservation Service
530-792-5600

Risk Management Agency
530-792-5870

CROP / LIVESTOCK LOSSES, LOANS

Farm Service Agency

www.fsa.usda.gov/ca



Disaster programs appearing in the 2008 Farm Bill are described below. Rules and regulations for many of these new programs are being completed right now. For more detail contact your nearest FSA office. Note the Disaster Program Eligibility Buy-In option on page 2.

SURE - Supplemental Revenue Assistance provides payment for revenue losses in Secretarial Disaster Designated Counties (and contiguous counties) or for farms with a 50% production loss due to natural disaster.

EM - Emergency Loan Program provides low interest loans to producers in Presidential or Secretarial Disaster Declared counties (and contiguous counties.) Up to \$500,000, terms up to 40 years.

LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides payment for feed losses on grazed land designated by D2 or higher for eight weeks by the Drought Monitor.

LIP - Livestock Indemnity Payments provides financial assistance for livestock

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CROP LOSS PROGRAMS (FSA)

- SURE - Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
- TAP - Tree Assistance Program
- ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish
- ECP - Emergency Conservation Program
- NAP-Crop - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (FSA)

LIVESTOCK / FORAGE LOSS PROGRAMS (FSA)

- LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program
- LIP - Livestock Indemnity Payments
- NAP-Forage- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (FSA)

LOANS / INSURANCE PROGRAMS (FSA / RMA)

- EM - Emergency Loan Program (FSA)
- CI - Crop Insurance Program (RMA)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (NRCS)

- EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- CTA - Conservation Technical Assistance

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/index.html or www.nrcs.usda.gov



EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program among other conservation practices, provides technical and cost share assistance to improve irrigation efficiency. Water conserving irrigation systems, pipelines and conveyance systems may be cost shared and incentive payments are available for producers who engage in and document improvements in water use efficiency. **Apply by October 31, 2008** to be consid-

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INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Risk Management Agency

www.rma.usda.gov



CI - Crop Insurance is available to producers through commercial insurance brokers to reduce the risk of loss due to adverse events like natural disasters. Producers interested in crop insurance need to contact any Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) or agent listed at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>. Producers may select their

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Farm Service Agency - continued

deaths in excess of normal mortality due to natural disasters.

NAP - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides payments for crop or grazing feed losses in excess of 50% for crops that are not covered by a federal crop insurance program. Available to enrolled participants.

TAP - Tree Assistance Program provides up to 70% cost share assistance for tree, vines and bush crop losses in excess of 15% due to natural causes. Contingent on funding.

ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish provides assistance for significant losses (yet to be determined).

ECP - Emergency Conservation Program provides a cost share assistance for conservation-related repairs due to natural disaster.

SPECIAL NOTE: DISASTER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY BUY-IN

To be eligible for 2008 **SURE**, **LFP** and **TAP** Programs, producers must be covered by Crop Insurance (**CI**) or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (**NAP**). All crops produced in all counties must be covered.

For producers who have not already obtained this coverage on all their 2008 crops there is a **Disaster Program Eligibility Buy-In option available until Sept. 16, 2008**. To ensure eligibility, visit your nearest FSA office by Sept. 16 to complete this Buy-In. Note that this post-deadline Buy-In option does not confer CI or NAP coverage benefits.

OTHER DISASTER RECOVERY RESOURCES

USDA-Rural Development
530-792-5800

US Small Business Administration
800-659-2955

American Ag Credit
800-800-4865

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Office of Emergency Services
916-845-8149

California Department of Food and Agriculture
916-654-0462

Natural Resources Conservation Service - continued

ered for cost share and incentive opportunities in fiscal year 2009.

CTA - Conservation Technical Assistance is available to farmers, ranchers, tribes, and communities interested in sustaining agricultural production goals while enhancing, conserving, and improving their natural resources and the environment. All services and programs are voluntary, non-regulatory, free of charge and offered statewide. NRCS Programs offer these advantages ■ Planning for conservation on your farm or ranch ■ Financial & technical assistance ■ Information on soils, water, plants, wildlife, and air ■ Soil management ■ Water conservation and irrigation water management.

Risk Management Agency - continued

coverage level from 50% to 85% for selected crops to protect against losses from weather related events, insects, diseases and wildlife. Since crop insurance is federally subsidized, USDA will pay from 38% to 67% of the coverage level. Based on the 2008 Farm Bill, farmers must be enrolled in crop insurance or the FSA administered NAP program to qualify for disaster payments.

Sales closing dates (SCD) vary by crop, state, and county so producers should consult a crop insurance agent to discuss their insurance options. **The SCD for several fall planted crops is fast approaching on Sept 30!** For a short explanation of key dates in the insurance cycle, go to http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/cycle/insurance_cycle_g.html.

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