



## USDA Offers Help to Fire-Affected Farmers and Ranchers in San Luis Obispo County

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reminds farmers and ranchers affected by the recent wildfires in San Luis Obispo County that disaster assistance programs are available to support their recovery efforts.

FSA administers a suite of safety-net programs to help you recover from lost livestock, grazing land, fences or eligible trees, bushes and vines as a result of a natural disaster:

- **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.
- **Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Presidential or Secretarial disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.

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NRCS can offer the [Emergency Watershed Protection Program \(EWP\)](#). This program is designed to help people reduce imminent hazards to life and property. All projects undertaken through EWP are done in conjunction with a sponsor, such as a city, state, county or other eligible party. EWP can pay up to 75 percent of the cost of emergency measures, and the sponsor commits to



cover the remaining 25 percent. Typical work includes removing debris from stream channels, culverts and bridge abutments; reshaping and protecting eroding banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees; or reseeding a damaged area.

NRCS conservationists may be able to offer advice on preventing erosion, covering and protecting exposed soil, directing water away from vulnerable areas and more.

- **USDA Farmers Disaster Assistance Tool.** This website tool will direct you to the most applicable USDA relief options available based on your disaster and loss types:  
<https://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-tool>
- **CA NRCS Post-Fire Disaster Assistance.** Assess more links and information to post-fire recovery options available through NRCS:  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/features/>

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For more information on these programs, contact your San Luis Obispo County USDA Service Center at 805-434-0396 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://fsa.usda.gov/disaster).