

IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

NRCS & FSA Programs for Livestock Producers

ICA Fact Sheet | July 2025

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) PROGRAMS

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

LIP provides financial assistance to livestock producers for livestock deaths or injuries caused by eligible adverse weather events, including extreme heat, cold, floods, and wildfires on federally managed rangelands. The program compensates for a portion of the market value of the lost animals and unborn livestock, helping producers recover from unexpected losses.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire on federally managed rangelands. It helps cover lost forage and additional feed costs, supporting operational continuity and livestock well-being.

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP):

ELRP is an initiative offering rapid financial aid to livestock producers affected by qualified drought or wildfire during specific years where money is allocated, most recently 2023 and 2024. It builds on LFP by delivering an additional payment to what the producer received from LFP for the same year, with no new application required.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP):

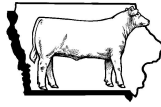
ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock and covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards, disease (including cattle tick fever), water shortages and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other disaster assistance programs such as LFP or LIP.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP):

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disasters and implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Emergency Farm Loans:

The Emergency Farm Loan Program provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. These loans can be used for restoring property, covering production and living costs, refinancing debt, or reorganizing operations.



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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) PROGRAMS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation practices. These practices improve water and air quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, and help mitigate drought and climate impacts. EQIP supports voluntary improvements through customized conservation plans, covering part of the costs to enhance both land sustainability and farm productivity. The program includes specific practices for confined livestock operations and grazing land for livestock producers.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. The higher the performance above existing management, the higher the payment the producer receives.

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE):

ALE helps protect agricultural land and grasslands by providing financial assistance to eligible partners including tribes, local governments, and nonprofits to purchase conservation easements on privately held working farmland. The program ensures land remains in agriculture and conserves important natural resources. NRCS can cover up to 50% of the easement's value, or up to 75% for environmentally significant grasslands.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

RCP supports innovative conservation projects through partnerships between NRCS and eligible organizations. Partners apply to lead projects and, if selected, collaborate with NRCS to implement conservation solutions with measurable outcomes. Tribes, governments, NGOs, and other eligible entities can apply as lead partners. Producers and landowners may participate by working with project partners or applying directly to NRCS once a project is approved. Eligible land includes agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land. Public land is eligible if it benefits qualifying private lands within the project area.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA):

CTA is available to producers at no cost, to provide one-on-one advice about proven conservation technologies and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive operation. Using the conservation plan developed through this program, producers can apply for financial assistance to help with implementation.

QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to the Iowa Cattlemen's Association or your local FSA or NRCS offices for more information.

Prepared by Iowa Cattlemen's Association. Adapted from USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service.