

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) Status Update

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Much of Texas has been in some stage of drought for a lot of 2020. The drought has been severe enough to force some ranchers to have to make culling decisions on their herds and flocks. USDA's Livestock Forage Program (LFP) is in place to help ranchers deal with the financial impacts of drought and sign up for the program is available.

The LFP provides payments to livestock producers who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage. Payments are available through LFP to producers that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to qualifying drought conditions. Due to the ongoing drought in much of western Texas, producers in many counties are eligible for payments through LFP. Producers may qualify for this program even if animals were already sold due to drought.

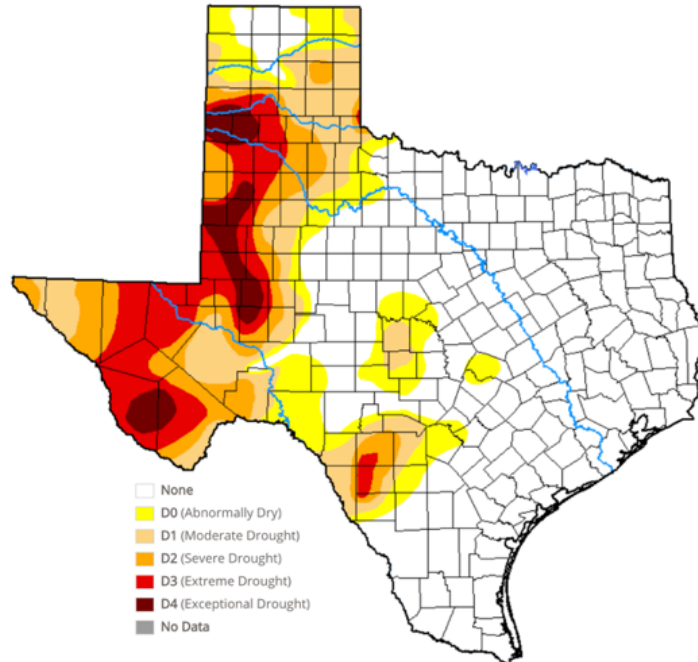
If your county is currently listed in drought, or was earlier this year, consider visiting with your local FSA office to determine whether or not you are eligible for payments through the LFP program.

For 2020, Native Pasture, Forage Sorghum, and Full Season Improved Pasture, qualify for multiple county payment months across west Texas. Long Season Small Grains, Short Season Spring Small Grains, Short Season Fall Winter Small Grains, qualify for multiple county payment months across southern Texas. Short Season Small Grains qualify across much of Central and some of southern Texas.

Eligibility

- Livestock must have been owned, leased, purchased, contracted, or held by contractor during the 60 days prior to the beginning of a qualifying drought or fire
- Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use (not including recreational purposes) and owned on beginning date of qualifying drought/fire condition

U.S. Drought Monitor 10/1/2020 - <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Qualifying

- In addition to the conditions listed above, producers must have pasture or grazing (including cash-leased) that is physically located in a county that has experienced D2, D3, or D4 drought conditions for the program's specified periods.
- The type of forage is important. The impact of drought conditions, and so the payments, are dependent upon standard growing seasons for each crop.
- Maps of counties qualifying for LFP payments by each crop are available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>

Payments

- Payments are based on the length of time a county has been listed in D2, D3, or D4 drought.
- Payments are calculated using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible land.
- Producers are paid a monthly rate. The longer a county has been listed in D2, D3, or D4, the more 'months' a producer is eligible for payments.
- Livestock payment rates for 2020 are:
 - Beef Cattle (Per month paid)
 - Adult Bulls & Cows - \$31.89/head
 - Non-Adult (500 pounds or more) - \$23.92/head
 - Non-Adult (Less than 500 pounds) - \$15.94/head
 - Sheep and Goats (Per month paid) (All) - \$7.97/head
 - Other livestock qualify. Visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index> for a list of livestock and rates

U.S. Drought Monitor 7/21/2020 – <https://unl.edu/droughtmonitor>

Application Deadlines

- Applications are due within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred (January 30, 2021)
- Apply through local FSA office.

