



Farm  
Production and  
Conservation

Farm  
Service  
Agency

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April 24, 2023

Nevada Department of Agriculture  
405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431

Dear Director Goicoechea,

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2023, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the adverse weather conditions experienced this winter for livestock producers in Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. I apologize for my delayed response.

Your comments and concerns are appreciated. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is aware that many farmers and ranchers across the country are suffering from the effects of current and past weather-related disasters. USDA will work expeditiously in the continued use of its available resources to provide relief to America's producers who have been affected by severe weather conditions including agricultural producers in Nevada.

We know these storms have left damage in their wake and USDA offers a strong portfolio of disaster assistance programs available to help even if a disaster designation has neither been requested nor declared. Key programs offered by USDA's FSA include:

- The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) reimburses producers for a apportion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals killed or severely injured by the natural disaster event. To participate in LIP, producers should be prepared to provide acceptable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. We know that these livestock losses may not be immediately apparent but need to be reported as soon as producers are aware of the loss. Producers don't have to make a special trip to town to report their loss. They can call their local FSA office and report the loss by phone.
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP), reimburses producers for a portion of feed or grazing losses and of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals killed or severely injured by a natural disaster or loss of feed and grazing acres. As a part of additional feed purchases, documented expenses associated with equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal may be covered as well. FSA has waived the 30-day timeframe to submit a notice of loss for all 2022 and 2023 ELAP- eligible losses occurring before June 2, 2023.
- The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a risk protection opportunity, similar to crop insurance, for which producers apply in advance of adverse weather events. NAP includes crop

production loss and tree loss for certain, eligible crops. The Biden-Harris Administration recently enacted a new provision under the NAP Program where form CCC-860 will serve as an application for basic 50/55 NAP coverage beginning with the 2022 crop year, which provides free basic NAP coverage and waives the NAP service fee for producers who have certified as a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or veteran farmer or rancher. Producers with a valid CCC-860 certification on file for crop year 2022 have been notified of their coverage and asked to visit their local County Office to obtain the NAP Basic Provisions, file an acreage report and complete a Notice of Loss, if applicable.

- The Tree Assistance Program (TAP), provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate or replant orchards and vineyards when storms kill or damage trees, vines or bushes. NAP and crop insurance often only cover the crop and not the plant.
- The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore damaged farmland or forests.

It is also critical that producers who have risk protection through federal crop insurance administered through the Risk Management Agency or FSA's NAP timely report crop damage to their crop insurance agent or the FSA office and keep accurate records to document damage or loss.

Additionally, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide financial resources through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources.

More resources can be found on [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov), including a specific site for winter storm recovery, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance guide, and Loan Assistance Tool can help producers determine program and loan options. Producers interested in these programs should contact their local USDA service center. To find the nearest service center, go to the "Find your Local Service Center" tool at [www.farmers.gov/recover](http://www.farmers.gov/recover).

My staff and I are open to suggestions on any assistance needs expressed by Nevada farmers and ranchers and willing to review current programs and policies to offer flexibilities within our authority to implement and we'd be glad to work with your Department of Agriculture to share our improvements to these programs. I would gladly make myself available to meet with you, your designee, members of your team and stakeholder groups and impacted producers to further discuss.

Again, thank you for writing in support of disaster assistance for the producers in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Colorado. If you have further questions, please

contact me at (202) 720-3467 or you can also have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. Please share this letter with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach Ducheneaux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "Z".

Zach Ducheneaux  
Administrator