



Farm Service Agency
ELAP - HONEYBEE ASSISTANCE

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock,
Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program**

FACT SHEET
March 2019

Overview

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. It covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, such as the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

ELAP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligible Honeybees

Eligible honeybees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding. Eligible honeybees do not include wild, feral honeybees, leaf cutter bees or other bee species that are not used for producing honey, pollinating or breeding honeybees.

Eligible Losses

Losses of colonies must be in excess of normal mortality. ELAP covers damage to hives and feed that was purchased or produced, including additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain honeybees until such time that additional feed becomes available.

The colony, hive and feed losses must be:

- Due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition; and
- Incurred by an eligible honeybee producer in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred.





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Eligible Conditions

The losses must be the direct result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including but not limited to:

- Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) (colony loss only);
- Earthquake;
- Eligible winter storm (colony loss only);
- Excessive wind;
- Flood;
- Hurricane;
- Lightning;
- Tornado;
- Volcanic eruption; and
- Wildfire.

Eligible Producer

To be eligible for losses, the producer must have:

- An interest and risk in an eligible colony for the purposes of producing honey, pollinating or breeding for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition; and
- Suffered an eligible honeybee loss in a county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

Colony Loss Payments

FSA has established a normal mortality rate for colony losses of 22 percent for the 2019 program year.

Payments for colony losses are based on the average fair market value of colonies in the program year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. FSA has established the average fair market value at \$140 per colony for the 2019 program year.

ELAP payments for honeybee colony losses will be based on a minimum of 75 percent of the result of multiplying:

- The number of colonies lost in excess of normal mortality (22 percent) due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, times;
- The average fair market value per colony for the applicable program year.

Hive Loss Payments

Payments for hive losses are based on the average fair market value of hives in the program year in which the loss occurs, as established by FSA. FSA has established average fair market value at \$258 per hive for the 2019 program year.

ELAP payments for hive losses will be based on a minimum of 75 percent of the result of multiplying:

- The number of hives lost due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, times;
- The average fair market value per hive for the applicable program year.

Feed Loss Payments

Payments are based on a minimum of 60 percent of the actual cost of purchased or harvested feed that was intended for honeybees and was damaged because of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition. This includes additional feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain the honeybees for a short time period until additional natural feedstock becomes available.



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Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Veterans

With respect to the national payment rates referenced above, an eligible honeybee producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a veteran will not have their payment rate for honeybee losses under ELAP reduced by more than 10 percent.

Payment Eligibility and Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Effective with the 2018 Farm Bill, there is no longer a per person and legal entity payment limitation for ELAP. In evaluating AGI, an individual or entity is ineligible for payment under ELAP if the AGI of the individual or entity exceeds \$900,000. Direct attribution provisions apply to ELAP. Under direct attribution, AGI provisions apply to the person or legal entity applying for payment as well as to those persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity. For more information on payment limitations visit www.fsa.usda.gov/limits.

Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply to receive ELAP assistance at local FSA service centers. For 2019 and subsequent program year losses, the application period will end on Nov. 1, after the end of the program year in which the honeybee loss occurred.

In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered honeybee losses must submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and application for payment for eligible losses.

Honeybee Loss	Final Date to File Notice of Loss	Final Date for Payment
Program year 2019 and subsequent program years	By the later of 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent	Nov. 1 after the program year in which the loss occurred

For honeybee colony and hive losses, the participant must include proof of inventory at the beginning of the program year and inventory immediately before and after the eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. For honeybee colony losses due to CCD, the participant must provide proof that best management practices are being followed, such as honeybee colonies are provided proper nutrition, preventative treatment for varroa mites and disease, proper maintenance of hive equipment, proper colony management and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility.

FSA will use data furnished by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, without all required data, program benefits will not be approved or provided.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about ELAP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ELAP or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.