



## **Pettis County MU Extension Center**

1012-A Thompson Blvd.

Sedalia, MO 65301

Phone 660-827-0591

[extension.missouri.edu/pettis](http://extension.missouri.edu/pettis)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Mar 25, 2014

Brent Carpenter

Agricultural Business Specialist

### **Disaster Assistance Finally on the Way for Livestock Farms**

Times were tough for Missouri livestock farms in the summer of 2012. It was the worst drought in generations. Pasture quickly disappeared and emergency feed prices skyrocketed. Many livestock farms were under severe stress due to circumstances beyond their control. Adding insult to injury, time had expired just a few months earlier for the public safety net designed for such a disastrous event. Federal agencies charged with helping had few tools to help.

Better late than never, congressional authorization to provide federal livestock disaster assistance has now been reinstated with passage of the new farm bill in February of this year. The new law reaches back to cover the drought period.

The 2014 farm bill makes four disaster programs permanent. Two programs are especially relevant now for livestock producers. Sign-up for livestock disaster assistance will begin at local USDA Farm Service Agency offices by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Producers who suffered excess losses of either pasture or animals any time after Oct 1, 2011 may apply for assistance. Every Missouri county has been declared eligible.

Under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), eligible livestock producers are partially compensated for feed cost during the drought. The level of payments for a county depends on the intensity of adverse conditions as measured by the U.S. drought monitor. For example, Pettis and some

surrounding counties met the conditions of the program for 34 or more consecutive weeks beginning June 2012. A tool to determine FSA eligibility is available at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx>

A second program, known as the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) covers farm businesses that suffered livestock death losses due to adverse weather. Eligible livestock for this program includes beef and dairy cattle, bison, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and potentially other livestock.

Producers are encouraged to begin registering for these two programs. The Farm Service Agency also recommends that producers compile documentation of losses, such as, records of the number and kind of livestock that have died and records of feed purchases to replace destroyed pasture. Photos or video may be helpful.

To learn more about these programs visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or an FSA county office.

The 2014 farm bill made many other changes that will impact Missouri crop, livestock and dairy farms. Regulations for new programs are still being developed. University of Missouri Extension has formed a taskforce to provide relevant educational resources for the new legislation. Look for more information in the coming months.