



ECP (EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM)

WHAT IS ECP?

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

It also provides funds to implement emergency water conservation measures during severe drought.

WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE LOSS

FSA County Committees will determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections after land damaging events. Events may include extreme weather or natural occurrences like flood, tornado, drought, wildfire, hurricane/typhoon.

ELIGIBLE LAND MAY INCLUDE:



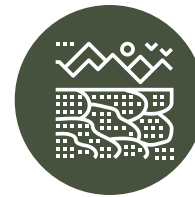
Commercial farming, ranching, and orchard operations



Growing nursery stock and Christmas tree plantations



Grazing for commercial livestock production



Conservation structures such as: waterways, terraces, diversions, and windbreaks

ECP is administered by FSA state and county committee and county office. Producers should contact their local office when they experience an emergency to discuss their eligibility and apply for ECP funds.

FUNDING

- FSA County Committee may approve cost share up to \$125,000 for land rehabilitation expenses.
- FSA State Committee may approve anything above \$125,001 to \$250,000 for land rehabilitation expenses.
- ECP is Limited to \$500,000 per individual or legal entity per disaster.

ECP funds are a cost share payment; farmers may receive up to 75% of eligible costs to implement approved restoration practices. Beginning farmers/ranchers, limited-resource and socially disadvantaged may receive up to 90% of the eligible cost to implement approved restoration practices. Reimbursement is now done based on a standard rate set by the state office for each type of repair. Farmers should still keep receipts of expenses in case they are audited.

For circumstances when fencing needs to be replaced immediately to contain livestock, an advance payment of 25% of the expected eligible cost share may be available.



FSA CONTACT INFORMATION

Visit: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> to locate your nearest FSA office. If you have trouble locating, getting in touch, or receiving adequate service from your agency, please let us know.

PROCESS

The county Office Committee (COC) must make an overall initial assessment of damage after a disaster occurs to ensure that the resulting damage meets the minimum ECP requirements. If requirements are met, the County Executive Director (CED) or COC will consult with State Committee (STC) or State Executive Director (SED) to request ECP implementation approval and availability of funds from the National Office. There is no minimum number of farmers impacted needed to trigger ECP funding.

Your local FSA Office will inform you about ECP implementation through press releases, radio spots, newsletters and flyers. Farmers apply for ECP funding and receive a site visit to approve their plan. They complete repairs and submit a request for payment to their local office.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE A LOSS



**KNOW YOUR
COUNTY FSA AGENT**

**MAKE SURE THE LOCAL FSA OFFICE
HAS YOUR FARM MAP ON FILE**

WHAT TO DO AFTER A LOSS



**REPORT DAMAGE TO
YOUR COUNTY OFFICE
AS SOON AS IT OCCURS.**

**THE LOCAL OFFICE WILL OPEN UP
APPLICATIONS FOR ECP FUNDS BASED ON
LOCAL NEED. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.**

**THE COUNTY OFFICE
WILL MEET TO APPROVE
YOUR REQUEST.**

Unless you need to repair fencing for livestock, do not do any repairs until you are approved for ECP funds.

Wait for a field visit to inspect your land and approve your repair plan. *(if there is space: Repair plans must be evaluated to ensure they are in line with conservation practices)*

Once approved, complete your repairs. Inform the office when you are done to request a payment.

To learn more and inquire about particular FSA disaster assistance programs, email resourcesforresilientfarms@rafiusa.org or call 877.207.6373

About the Farmers of Color Network at RAFI-USA

FOCN develops relationships with farmers of color in order to support and honor multi-generational organizing, sustainable agricultural practices, and ancestral traditions and knowledge. FOCN provides farmer-led technical assistance, offers funding opportunities, and hosts networking events and gatherings to expand market access.