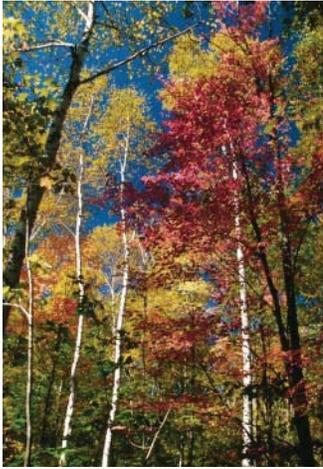




Emergency Conservation Program(ECP)

Wisconsin Farm Service Agency



USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress.

Program Administration

ECP is administered by state and county FSA committees. Subject to availability of funds, locally-elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which is authorized at the national office of FSA.

Land Eligibility

County FSA committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- impair or endanger the land;
- materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and
- be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

Payments

As determined by FSA county Committees, ECP program participants may receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Qualified limited-resource producers receive cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices.

Individual or cumulative requests for cost-share assistance of \$50,000 or less per person or legal entity, per disaster are approved at the county committee

level. Cost-share assistance requests exceeding \$50,000 require approval from the state committee or national office level. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity, per disaster.

Technical assistance may be provided by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Emergency Conservation Practices

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP program participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- debris removal from farmland;
- restoring livestock fences and conservation structures;
- providing water for livestock during periods of severe drought.

Other conservation measures may be authorized by county FSA committees, with approval from state FSA committees and FSA's national office.

Sign-up Periods

Producers should inquire with their local county FSA offices regarding ECP sign-up periods, which are set by county FSA committees.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local USDA Service Center.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all of part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.