

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR 2020 WILDFIRES - OREGON

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures, such as fences damaged by natural disasters, including wildfire.

Eligible Farmland Restoration Practices

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

- Removing debris from farmland (cleanup of wind or water deposited debris, such as woody material, sand, rock and trash on cropland or pastureland);
 - Grading, shaping or leveling land (filling gullies, releveling irrigated farmland and incorporating sand and silt);
 - Restoring fences (livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates, or wildlife exclusion fence on agricultural land);
 - Restoring conservation structures (waterways, terraces, diversion ditches and permanently installed ditching system); and
 - Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought (grazing and confined livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards).
- Land subject to frequent damage (3 or more times in last 10 years by same type of disaster) is not eligible for ECP assistance.
- Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.

How to Apply for ECP Assistance

1. Producer or USDA documents damage with dated photographs, videos and third-party verification.
2. Producer reports to their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to request assistance (immediate restoration applies only to emergency situations such as putting up fencing to confine livestock).
3. The county FSA office will initiate the approval process guidance and next steps.

Cost-Share Payments Are:

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved/eligible* restoration practices; *new or used materials, services, labor and equipment
- Up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices for producers who certify as limited resource, socially-disadvantaged or beginning farmers/ranchers;
- Limited to \$500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster; and
- Available as an advance payment of up to 25 percent of expected cost-share, for only the replacement or restoration of fencing.

For More Information

For more information on FSA programs, eligibility and related information, visit fsa.usda.gov. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

