**Report honeybee losses to FSA within 30 days to participate in ELAP**

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized up to $20 million in a fiscal year (FY) for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). 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 conditions, as described further, below.

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.

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.

Incurred by an eligible honeybee producer in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred.

**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);
* Eligible extreme cold or sustained cold (colony loss only);
* Excessive wind;
* Flood;
* Hurricane;
* Lightning;
* Tornado;
* Volcanic eruption and;
* Wildfire.

Eligible extreme cold means, for honeybee colony losses, the temperature must be 14 degrees Fahrenheit or less for at least 7 consecutive days during the program year in which the loss is claimed.

Eligible sustained cold means, for honeybee colony losses, the temperature must be 23 degrees Fahrenheit or less for at least 40 consecutive days during the program year in which the loss is claimed.

Eligible winter storm means a storm that lasts for at least 3 consecutive days and is accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall, and extremely cold temperatures.

**COLONY LOSS PAYMENTS**

FSA has established a normal mortality rate for colony losses of 17.5 percent for 2016 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 $135 per colony for the 2016 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 (17.5 percent for 2016) 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 $240 per hive for the 2016 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.

 \* Normal mortality and/or payment rates will likely be adjusted for program year 2017.

**APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE**

Producers can apply to receive ELAP assistance at local FSA service centers.  The final date to file a Notice of Loss is 30 days after the honeybee loss is apparent.  The final date to submit an Application for Payment is November 1, after the end of the program year in which the honeybee loss occurred.

For honeybee colony and hive losses, the participant must include proof of inventory at the beginning of the program year and ending inventory immediately after the eligible adverse weather event or loss condition.  (This is one reason filing an annual report with FSA and other beekeepers organizations can be so important.)  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 and proper colony management, and any other supporting documents required for determining eligibility.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

***Lindsey New***

***COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR***

USDA - FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Somerset Service Center

45 Eagle Creek Drive, Ste. 101

Somerset, KY 42503

Phone: (606) 678-4842, Ext. 125

Fax: (855) 784-0872

*Pulaski and McCreary Counties*