Greetings,

Right when things were starting to roll with field work, we get hit with a week of wet weather! I knew this was a tough year for crops with my interactions with local farmers and agronomists. But a few weeks ago I ran into Bryce Larson, the former Agriculture Educator for the county, and he mentioned this is one of the toughest years for this area that he can remember. That is a pretty big statement from a guy with a ton of experience. With my experience growing up on a farm, there are good years and there are tough years. It’s just best to do the most you can with the hand you have been dealt. Hopefully Mother Nature starts to cooperate and lets us continue with the fall harvest. As field work picks up again, please remember to be safe.

One of the privileges about being back in Wisconsin is being able to attend World Dairy Expo! I was able to be down there for a few days helping in the show ring and working the UW-Extension Dairy Team booth. The Dairy Team has launched a new website so feel free to check it out and subscribe! Here is the new link: http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/. It was great seeing a lot of familiar faces and even watching some our local exhibitors compete on the colored shavings. The new barns on the grounds were also very interesting to see in person.

Dairy producers can now enroll in the new Margin Protection Program through the Farm Service Agency. The new program provides financial assistance to participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the producer. A new web tool has been created to aid producers in making decisions. It can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool.

As always, take a look at some of our upcoming programs and please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Take care,

Eric Ronk
Agriculture Agent
UWEX – Calumet County
November
12 Agricultural Grant Program Workshop, 9:00-4:00 pm, Angie’s Main Café, Shawano. Additional information is available at http://shawano.uwex.edu/2014/10/07/2014-ag-grants-workshops/
14-16 Tractor and Farm Safety Camp, Camp TaPaWingo, Mishicot
17 Pest Management Update, 10:00-3:00 pm, UW-Fond du Lac
18 Pest Management Update, 10:00-3:00 pm, Liberty Hall, Kimberly

December
2 Implements of Husbandry Update, 1:00-4:00 pm, Millhome Supper Club, Kiel

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**Buying and Selling Corn Silage: What’s A Fair Price in 2014?**

*By Greg Blonde, Agriculture Agent UW-Extension, Waupaca County*

**Base price at 65% moisture** .......................................................... $_________ / ton

Option #1... 7-9x price of shell corn...$3.25 x 8 = $26 / ton
Option #2... cost + return...$450 + 15 ton/a + 10% = $33 / ton
Option #3... 1/4 to 1/3 price of baled hay...$175 x 0.25 = $44 / ton

**Adjusted price for moisture** (see table below).......................... $_________ / ton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Moisture</th>
<th>$26</th>
<th>$30</th>
<th>$34</th>
<th>$38</th>
<th>$42</th>
<th>$46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71 %</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 %</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td>$37</td>
<td>$41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 %</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 %</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 %</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$44</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 %</td>
<td>$29</td>
<td>$33</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$47</td>
<td>$51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 %</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>$54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality adjustment factor for maturity** ........................................x___________ %

(Darby and Lauer, 2002)

- pre-tassel = 90%
- silk = 80%
- soft dough = 85%
- early dent = 90%
- 1/2 kernel milk line = 100%
- black layer = 90%

**Adjusted price for moisture and quality** ................................. =___________ $/ ton

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**Estimating Corn Silage Yield**

Two “quick and dirty” ways to estimate corn silage yield are:

**Based on Grain Yield**...for stressed corn, about one ton of silage per acre can be obtained from each 5 bushels of grain per acre. For example, if you expect a grain yield of 50 bushels of grain per acre, you will get about 10 ton/acre of 30 percent dry matter silage. For corn yielding more than 100 bushels per acre, about one ton of silage per acre can be expected for each 7 to 8 bushels of grain per acre.
Based on Plant Height

If little or no grain is expected, a rough pre-harvest estimate of yield can be made by assuming that one ton of 30 percent dry matter silage can be obtained for each foot of plant height (excluding the tassel). On this basis, “waist-high” corn 3-4 feet tall will yield about 3 to 4 tons per acre of silage at 30 percent dry matter.

Sample Weight Method

A more accurate way to estimate yields is to weigh the corn plants from a portion of an acre (1/100th) in several spots of the field. To do this, determine row width, then cut corn plants in one row for a certain length according to row width in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row Length</th>
<th>Row Width</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32.50 ft.</td>
<td>30”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.75 ft.</td>
<td>36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.50 ft.</td>
<td>38”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.25 ft.</td>
<td>40”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next, weigh the amount of whole corn plant material cut in pounds. Divide the pounds harvested by 4. That's the estimated tons produced per acre. Follow this method for several areas and average the results.

For example – If the row width was 30” and 32.5 ft. of row was cut and weighed 64 lbs., this field would yield 16 tons of corn silage /acre (64 divided by 4 = 16 tons).

In order to obtain actual tons harvested, weigh each wagon load or count how many feet of silage went into a silo after settling. If you know the silo size, how many feet of silage was put up and what the moisture was, silo charts can be used to calculate tons stored. Dividing stored tons by acres harvested will give you yield per acre.

Finally, multiply your adjusted base price with yield and total acres to determine total value. If the buyer is responsible for harvesting, then use the following 2013 custom rate guide to establish credit toward the final payment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With Kernel Processor</th>
<th>Without Kernel Processor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pull-Type</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ / Acre</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chop Only</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chop/Haul/Silo</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Propelled</td>
<td>$ / Acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chop Only</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chop/Haul/Pack</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a more in-depth analysis, including value of stover and/or nutrient removal, go to the UW-Extension Team Forage website at: [http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/files/2014/01/CornSilagePricingDecisionAidV2-1.xls](http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/files/2014/01/CornSilagePricingDecisionAidV2-1.xls).

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**WANTED: FARMER INNOVATOR/INVENTORS**

The 2015 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days to be held at the Statz Bros. Farm in Dane County will feature an “Innovation Square” which will be located in the center of “Tent City.” Farmer innovators are invited to submit their inventions/innovations for consideration as part of “Innovation Square.”

Innovations may range from modifications to an existing piece of machinery to a completely new invention. Anything that would make a specific operation easier, more efficient, or more effective would likely qualify. A panel of judges from University Agricultural Engineering Departments around the country will evaluate the entries on predetermined criteria (see evaluation criteria at [www.wifarmtechnologydays.com](http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com) under “Exhibitors”). A total of 4-5 farmer innovations will be chosen for exhibit in “Innovation Square” each year along with a similar number from agribusiness firms and universities.

There will be no cost to those chosen to be part of “Innovation Square.” Exhibit space will be flexible, based on the amount of room needed to adequately display/demonstrate each invention. Exhibits will need to be accompanied by a farm representative during a significant portion of each day of the three-day show.

Application forms for “Innovation Square” may be found at [www.wifarmtechnologydays.com](http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com) under “Exhibitors.” The application deadline is January 15, 2015.
Have you struggled to manage your pests in agronomic crops this year? If so consider attending a Pest Management Update Series hosted by University of Wisconsin-Extension. Two local meetings will provide updates to weed, insect, and disease management in corn, soybean, small grains, and alfalfa. Discussions of important pests that are spreading in Wisconsin and management approaches will be highlighted. In addition to these updates, participants will also have a chance to hone their IPM skills with hands-on training in the afternoon.

This conference has always been highly valued by agribusiness and crop consultants noted Mark Renz, UW-Extension/Madison weed specialist. He said previous meeting attendees estimated that information they received from the meeting adds/saves them more than $10 per acre. “While we have a long history of success with this meeting, we are thrilled to partner with the UW Integrated Crop and Pest Management Program this year” says Renz. “This group has a wealth of experience at reinforcing critical IPM issues through hands-on training sessions and will add another dimension to the program.”

The morning session focuses on integrated pest management updates by crop and is streamlined to focus on new pesticide registrations, pest updates and highlight important issues from 2014 by crop. Afternoon sessions focus on specific updates such as herbicide resistance, sprayer technology, and the pest management mobile website. The meeting will end with diagnostic training events developed to improve problem solving skills for pest related issues common to Wisconsin field crops.

Speakers are UW-Extension/Madison specialists Mark Renz and Vince Davis, weed scientists; Damon Smith, plant pathologist; Dan Heider, IPM specialist; and Bryan Jensen, entomologist.

Cost of attendance is $40, which includes a copy of the 2015 Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops ($15 value), lunch, and other educational material. Four hours of CCA CEU pest management credits will be available.

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**Tractor and Farm Safety Camp**

Does your son or daughter work on a farm during the summer? Do you hire youth to work for you during the year? Do these young people have adequate safety training? Accidents cause more deaths to individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 than all other causes combined. To help reduce accidents, a Tractor & Farm Safety Camp is being coordinated by UW-Extension Manitowoc County.

The camp will be held at Camp TaPaWingo and will begin on Friday evening, November 14, and end on Sunday afternoon, November 16. Camp TaPaWingo is located at 915 West TaPaWingo Road, Mishicot, Wisconsin. Cost for the camp is $195 and includes lodging, meals, training materials, and 24 hours of instruction.

The camp will focus on the safety aspects of operating farm equipment and daily farm tasks. To complete the course, youth must attend all sessions and pass a written and a driving exam. Certificates will be issued by the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office following successful completion of course. For more information and/or to obtain a registration brochure, please visit [www.manitowoc.uwex.edu](http://www.manitowoc.uwex.edu).

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**New Milking Routine Video Posted**

With the excellent cooperation of Ripps Dairy Valley, UW-Extension has recently posted the final video in our 7-Habits of Highly Effective Milking Routines series. This video demonstrates a complete routine as performed by the milking technicians on Ripps Farm. The video is about 7 minutes and includes narration that ties it back to the individual components of an effective routine as described in the other 6 videos. The link to this video is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wasAp9XA3Pq&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wasAp9XA3Pq&feature=youtu.be). All 7 of the videos can currently be found on the front page of our milk quality website: [http:\milkerquality.wisc.edu](http://milkerquality.wisc.edu).
Sesquicentennial and Century Farm & Home Program Applications Available

Applications are now available for the 2015 Century and Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award, an award given to families who have dedicated their life to Wisconsin farming for 100 or 150 years. The awards will be presented at the 2015 Wisconsin State Fair, which will take place August 6-16 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis.

To qualify for the award, families are required to provide proof of continuous family ownership of a property in Wisconsin for either the last 100 or 150 years. Honorees will receive complimentary fair admission tickets, an invitation to the awards breakfast, a commemorative photo, certificate and outdoor display sign.

Applications for the Century and Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award are now available from the UW-Extension Office and only one certificate may be issued per property. Applications must be postmarked by March 1.

2104 Calumet County Forage Council Dry Down Days

There were five Corn Silage Dry Down Days, which were sponsored by UW-Extension, Calumet County Forage Council and Fox Valley Technical College, held this year in Calumet County. This event helps farmers estimate the moisture content of their corn. Farmers collect 3-5 representative corn stalks from their fields to be analyzed. The Forage Council provides brats, burgers and soda while farmers wait for their samples to be analyzed.

The optimal moisture for corn silage depends largely on the storage unit it is placed in but is usually around 65 percent. Harvesting corn silage at the optimal moisture helps reduce the loss of feed leachate while providing the ideal environment for fermentation to occur. Research shows corn can dry an average of 0.5% per day but temperature, precipitation and sunlight can affect the drying ability. Spreadsheets can aid farmers in predicting their harvest dates depending on the moisture content of their corn sample.

Mike Melso, NEW Farm Technologies, provided free samples with his portable analyzer for forages (AgriNIR) while the traditional koster ovens were also used. This year an educational component was added to the dry down days. Dr. John Goeser, from Rock River Lab, presented on forage research at the Country Visions location. Eric Ronk, UW-Extension Calumet County Agriculture Agent, discussed corn silage management at the Martin and Tom Biese Farm. Jeremy Hanson, FVTC Business Instructor, discussed knowing your cost of production, pricing corn silage, and marketing opportunities at the Schneider Farms location. Thanks to everyone who made this program a great success and good luck with the rest of the harvest season!

Summary table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Samples</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average % Moisture</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>68.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
September dairy product prices and milk prices continue to set new record highs. Butter on the CME which averaged $2.59 per pound in August, showed strength all month reaching $3.00 per pound on September 12th and increased to $3.06 per pound on the 19th. Cheddar barrels averaged $2.18 per pound in August, started the month at $2.3625 per pound and on the 19th it had increased to 2.43 per pound. The 40-pound cheddar block price also averaged $2.18 per pound in August and on the 19th increased to $2.45. Dry whey prices have held near $0.65 per pound. The only weakness has been nonfat dry milk prices which have fallen to $1.375 per pound on the CME. The Class III price for September will be near $24.55, $2.30 higher than August, the highest this year and $6.40 higher than a year ago. While nonfat dry milk prices have slipped the higher butter prices will put the Class IV price near $22.45, 0.57 lower than August but still $3.00 higher than a year ago. The All Milk Price will near $26.00 for September and $5.90 higher than a year ago.

Two major factors for these higher prices have been strong domestic sales and exports. Despite higher butter and cheese prices buyers of butter and cheese have bid up prices to get product to build stocks for the upcoming strong sales period later this fall. January through July exports compared to a year earlier were 37% higher for butter, 31% higher for cheese, 11% higher for nonfat dry milk, and 5% higher for dry whey. On a total solids basis, exports were equivalent to 16.5% of U.S. milk production. These domestic sales and exports have tightened stocks. As of July 31st butter stocks were 42% lower than a year ago, American cheese stocks 6% lower, total cheese stocks 8% lower, and dry whey stocks 5% lower. Nonfat dry milk was the only product with higher stocks than a year ago at 21.3%.

But these higher prices will not hold. Opinions differ widely as to how quickly and how far prices will fall as we end this year and for 2015. High prices could eventually temper domestic sales of butter and cheese. World prices of butter, cheese, skim milk powder, and whole milk powder have fallen substantially and are now well below U.S. prices making U.S. products less competitive on the world market. World prices have fallen primarily because of a recovery in milk production in all major exporting countries and China backing off on very aggressive buying earlier in the year. July butter and dry whey exports already dropped below year ago with butter exports 39% lower and dry whey exports 17% lower. Nonfat dry milk exports were just 1% higher. Cheese exports were still 18% higher due to fulfilling previous contracts, but new orders have softened. Record milk prices along with lower feed cost have resulted in very favorable margins for dairy producers to increase U.S. milk production. As milk production increases so does the production of dairy products. Compared to a year earlier July butter production was 2.6% higher, American cheese production 9.5% higher, total cheese production 7% higher, and nonfat dry milk production 42.7% higher.

USDA’s estimated U.S. milk production compared to a year earlier was 3.9% higher for July and 2.5% higher for September. An increase in the number of milk cows has been anticipated. But, cow numbers are increasing slowly as cull cow prices remain high and the supply of dairy replacements is lower than two years ago. Milk cow numbers for August actually fell by 1,000 head from July and were just 0.5% higher than a year ago. Only 74,000 head have been added thus far this year. Of the 23 reporting states the following nine had fewer milk cows than a year ago: California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The relatively stronger increase in milk production was due to improved milk per cow. Only two states had lower milk per cow, Oregon and Texas. August milk per cow was 2.0% higher than a year ago. Leading states in increases in August milk production compared to last year were Florida +8.1%, Colorado +8.0%, Michigan +6.7%, Texas 6.2% and Kansas 5.8%. Of the five leading dairy states that produce more than half of U.S. milk production, production was up just 1.4% in California, 1.2% in Wisconsin, 2.7% in New York, 3.1% in Idaho, and 0.5% in Minnesota.

By December we could see butter prices around $1.90 per pound and near $1.70 early into 2015. Cheese could be about $1.95 per pound by December, $1.80 early into 2015 and in the mid-$1.70s by summer. Dry whey could be below $0.50 early into 2015 and nonfat dry milk around $1.35. These prices would put the Class III price near $19.30 for December, around $18 by January and in the $17s by spring and summer. As butter prices weaken the Class IV price will fall even faster to around $18 by December and in the low $17s early into 2015. These are substantial declines in milk prices. Lower feed costs will help to soften the impact on dairy producers, but margins will not be as favorable as this year. This has been a good year for dairy producers helping them recover financially from the extremely depressed milk prices of 2009 and very high feed prices the fall of 2012 and winter of 2013 as well as increase costs of other production expenses. Average yearly prices for 2014 will all be record highs with Class III near $22.30, $4.40 higher than 2013, Class IV $22.20, $3.15 higher than 2013, and the All Milk Price $23.90, $3.85 higher than 2013.
To meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers are reminded to report their perennial forages and fall seeded crops by November 17, 2014.

Perennial forages include **ALL** alfalfa, alfalfa grass mixtures, red clover and others that are intended for harvest in 2015. This also includes pasture acreage. Fall seeded small grains include winter wheat, rye and others.

Producers who are interested in participating in any 2015 USDA farm programs or just want to keep their acreage history up to date need to schedule an appointment (920-849-1449) to report the location, acreage and planting date of the applicable crop. Filing an acreage report on these crops after the November 17, 2014, deadline will require the payment of a late-filing fee which amounts to a minimum of $46.00 per FSA established farm number.

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**Enrollment for New Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers is Underway**

**Calumet FSA to be holding informational MPP-Dairy Meeting on October 21st**

Calumet County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Lynn Clausing, announced that dairy producers can now enroll in the new Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers (MPP). The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating dairy producers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the producer.

MPP, which replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract program, gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment ends on November 28, 2014 for 2014 and 2015. Participating farmers must remain in the program through 2018 and pay minimum $100 administrative fee each year. The $100 fee covers producers at the catastrophic level under the MPP program. Producers can purchase additional “buy-up” coverage to meet the needs of their operation. Producers will have the option of selecting different coverage levels during open enrollment periods that will be held from July through September in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The Calumet FSA Office will be having an informational meeting on the MPP-Dairy Program on Tuesday, October 21st beginning at 10:30 am in Room 25 at the Calumet County Courthouse. This is the same building in which the FSA office is located. Persons with disabilities who require accommodation to attend or participate in this event should contact Lynn Clausing at 920-849-1449, or Dial 711 or contact the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and lynnann.clausing@wi.usda.gov by October 17, 2014.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also launched a new Web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the Margin Protection Program that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool), allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections. Producers can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, Smartphone, tablet or any other platform, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anyone who has questions about the new MPP program should contact the Calumet FSA Office at 920-849-1449 or should plan on attending the informational meeting on October 21st.

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**USDA Disaster Program Information**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports the American agricultural economy. With the new Farm Bill in place, USDA provides farmers, farmland owners, ranchers, tenants, and others with the help they may need. The following information highlights a variety of USDA’s available programs.

(continued on next two pages)
USDA AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS
Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Calumet County FSA Phone Number: (920) 849-1449
http://askfsa.custhelp.com

- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) -
ARC and PLC offer price or revenue protection for wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, long and medium grain rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe, sesame seed, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, and peanuts when commodity prices (for PLC) or revenues (for ARC) are below certain rates.

- Emergency Loans -
FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. You may be eligible if you
  o have suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property; have an acceptable credit history;
  o are unable to receive credit from commercial sources;
  o can provide collateral to secure the loan; and have repayment ability. Producers can borrow a maximum amount of $500,000.

Applications for emergency loans must be received within eight months of the county’s disaster or quarantine designation date.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

1. Disaster Set-Aside
Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) can provide relief for producers who are unable to make scheduled direct loan payments to FSA, by moving one full year’s payment to the end of the loan. To be eligible, the borrower must have operated a farm or ranch in a primary or contiguous designated disaster area. Each loan considered for DSA must have been outstanding at the time of the disaster and no more than 90 days past due. Applications must be submitted within eight (8) months of designation. Please ask your local FSA loan officer to see if you qualify.

2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
The LFP is for grazing losses on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county.

3. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
The LIP is for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. LIP also covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

4. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
The ELAP is for livestock death not covered by LIP, for grazing losses not covered by LFP; for farm- raised fish and honeybee death and feed losses.

5. Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
The TAP provides cost share to replant or rehabilitate commercial orchards and tree nurseries damaged by natural disasters.

6. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
The NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster or an adverse weather event.

The Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) retroactively extends LFP, LIP, ELAP, and TAP to cover eligible losses back to October 1, 2011.

7. Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10 to 15 years in length. Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres may be authorized under emergency conditions.

8. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
The ECP helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place measures for water conservation and enhancement for livestock and existing orchard and vineyard irrigation systems during severe drought.

9. Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)
The EFRP is for owners of non-industrial, privately owned forests to restore forest health and forest resources damaged by natural disasters.
MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM (MPP)
MPP-Dairy, authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014, is a voluntary risk management program that provides payments to dairy producers when the difference (also called the margin) between the national all milk price and the national average feed cost falls below the margin coverage levels (trigger) the producer chooses on an annual basis.

The MPP-Dairy program helps farmers by providing a framework that protects farm equity by providing a safety net when dairy margins are low.

Eligible producers may elect catastrophic level coverage or purchase buy-up coverage for their dairy operation by based on an established production history.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Phone Number: (202) 720-3210

- **The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
The EQIP provides private land owners financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns. Up to 10 years in length, these contracts offer opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Limited resource farmers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers may be eligible for higher payment rates.

Notably, the Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and previous funding for these programs are now part of EQIP. Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis; however, deadline dates are established for evaluation of eligible applications.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
The CSP provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Payments are made after October 1. for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous fiscal year.

- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)**
The EWP is a cost-share program to conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) http://eden.lsu.edu

- **Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)** NIFA partners with more than 100 land-grant universities to bring resources to the public through non-formal education efforts. The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) provides resources to communities, families and individuals to help reduce the impact of natural disasters. This network of Extension educators shares practical knowledge and information on agricultural and natural disasters, threats to families, communities, and human health.

Rural Development (RD) - Phone Number: 1(800) 670-6553

- **Water and Environmental Programs**
The WEP provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for assistance.

- **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants**
Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants assist rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency. Emergencies may be, but are not limited to, a drought; earthquake; flood; tornado; hurricane; disease outbreak; or chemical spill, leakage, or seepage. Grants may range from $150,000 to $500,000. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis through Rural Development state and local offices.

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

- The Risk Management Agency (RMA) provides a variety of crop and livestock related insurance products, which protect against agricultural production losses due to natural causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, hurricane, tornado, lightning, and pests. For more information, visit www.rma.usda.gov or call (202) 690-2803.

Minority Farm Register
Sign-up for the USDA Minority Farm Register. The register promotes equal access for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, and tenants to USDA farm programs. For more information, you can email the Minority Farm Register at advocacyandoutreach@osec.usda.gov or call (202) 720-6350.

Contact your local USDA Service (920) 849-1449 for more information on the programs that are provided in your area.