



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

AGRICULTURE

Representatives Zoe Lofgren, Jimmy Panetta, and Salud Carbajal are committed to supporting Central Coast agricultural producers as they recover from the repeated storms in January and March.

The historic storms caused widespread flooding and damaged thousands of acres of farms and ranches.

On this fact sheet, you'll find information on assistance programs for farmers and ranchers and what the Representatives are doing to secure additional assistance for impacted producers.

If you have questions or could use help cutting through red tape, please contact your Representative's office:

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Jimmy Panetta | CA-19
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| Land Rehabilitation |

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a variety of programs to help restore land to a productive state:

Program	What it Covers	USDA Agency
Emergency Conservation Program	ECP pays a percentage, typically up to 75%, of the cost to restore damaged private land to a productive state. Land eligibility and restoration practices are determined by the FSA county committee.	FSA
Emergency Forest Restoration Program	EFRP provides assistance in restoring forest health and related resources on private, nonindustrial forestland.	FSA
Emergency Watershed Protection	EWP provides community-wide support and technical assistance to restore a watershed, including repairing levees and removing debris from stream channels. Projects must be sponsored by a state or local government or tribal organization.	NRCS
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Although not designed as an emergency program, EQIP can potentially be used to manage damage from natural disasters or prevent future damages through conservation practices.	NRCS

| Financial Assistance |

The USDA also has multiple programs to help producers recover financially after a natural disaster:

Program	What it Covers	USDA Agency
Crop Insurance	For producers that purchased a policy prior to planting, can cover yield, revenue, or margin losses.	RMA
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	For enrolled producers, NAP covers part of losses in excess of a minimum loss threshold. Underserved producers are automatically eligible for NAP coverage, even if they did not enroll prior.	FSA
Livestock Indemnity Program	LIP covers livestock deaths or injuries that result in a reduced sale price. The LIP payment rate is 75% of the average fair market value of the animal.	FSA
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish	ELAP covers losses not covered by LIP due to weather, disease, or feed or water shortages.	FSA
Tree Assistance Program	TAP covers part of the cost to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters from which an annual crop is produced. Crop insurance or NAP generally covers the crop, while TAP covers the tree, bush, or vine itself.	FSA
Emergency Disaster Loans	In counties with declared disasters or adjoining counties, USDA provides low-interest emergency disaster loans.	FSA
Disaster Set-Aside Program	In counties with declared disasters or adjoining counties, USDA can defer one full year's loan payment to the end of the loan.	FSA

| Other Assistance |

In addition to programs above, other assistance may also be available. For example, damages to homes or private access roads on farms may be eligible for FEMA assistance and farmworkers who are out of work may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). You can find information on such assistance at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

| Securing Further Assistance |

In addition to the above programs, Representatives Lofgren, Panetta, and Carbajal are committed to securing much-needed further assistance for Central Coast agricultural producers. The Representatives have regularly visited affected farms and know the challenges local producers face. All three supported the State of California's requests for a Major Disaster Declaration for both the January and March storms. These declarations, which President Biden granted for specific counties, unlocked assistance for individuals, households, and local governments, as well as USDA emergency loans.

In recent years, Congress has also provided supplemental disaster relief through USDA's Emergency Relief Program to cover revenue losses caused by a natural disaster for both producers who had crop insurance or NAP coverage and those who did not. The Representatives are committed to ensuring that California producers receive similar support this year from Congress.

The Representatives also know that, too often, existing programs, including crop insurance and NAP, exclude or don't work for Central Coast producers. With climate change driving more frequent extreme weather events, it's vital that farmers and ranchers not only receive assistance for the recent storms, but are protected from and prepared for future natural disasters. As Congress considers a farm bill this year, the Representatives are developing reforms to ensure specialty crop producers and others can fully access important USDA programs, including crop insurance and NAP.