



# APIARY NEWSLETTER

## USDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

USDA Officially Announces Sign-Up Date for Farmer and Rancher Disaster Assistance Programs

Sign-Up Begins April 15 for Livestock, Honeybee, Fruit Grower Programs  
WASHINGTON, April 7, 2014 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that farmers and ranchers can sign-up for disaster assistance programs, reestablished and strengthened by the 2014 Farm Bill, beginning Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Quick implementation of the programs has been a top priority for USDA.

"These programs will provide long-awaited disaster relief for many livestock producers who have endured significant financial hardship from weather-related disasters while the programs were expired and awaiting Congressional action," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I prioritized the implementation of these disaster assistance programs now that the Farm Bill has restored and strengthened them."

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011,

and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Enrollment also begins on April 15 for producers with losses covered by the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible livestock includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, bison, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on publicly managed land. An eligible livestock producer must own, cash lease, or be a contract grower of eligible livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as D2, D3, or D4.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree

growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees have worked exceptionally hard over the past two months to ensure eligible farmers and ranchers would be able to enroll to receive disaster relief on April 15. To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to collect records documenting these losses in preparation for the enrollment in these disaster assistance programs. Information on the types of records necessary can be provided by local FSA county offices. Producers also are encouraged to contact their county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

For more information, producers may review the 2014 Farm Bill Fact Sheet, ELAP and TAP fact sheets online, or visit any local FSA office or USDA Service Center.

## 2014 NATIONAL HONEY BEE SURVEY



The 2013 NHBS has been completed. All samples have been sent to the USDA bee lab in Beltsville, MD. Results, when completed, will be sent to the beekeepers.

Arkansas has volunteered to participate in the 2014 survey. When the survey kits arrive we will be working the survey into our normal inspections. Hopefully, we will be able to complete the

survey in its entirety. We would appreciate your cooperation in this process.



# NEWS FROM THE HILL

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Dr. Allen Szalanski's lab has published the following research paper.

Prevalence of *Nosema* from Managed Honey Bee Colonies in South Dakota and New York. Szalanski, A.L., J. Whitaker, A.D. Tripodi, and P. Cappy. 2013.

The paper can be found in:

Journal of Agricultural and Urban Entomology. 29: 99-104. You can access it from the following link:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3954/JAUE13-03.1>



## U OF A EXTENSION

Jon Zawislak has started his last spring class on April 7, 2014 in Conway. No other classes are scheduled at this time.

Jon has applied for a 2014 renewal of Section 18 for HopGuard. He has word from our Pesticide Division that it should be

approved again. Not sure how long it will take- but, the paperwork has been submitted.

### INSPECTOR'S CORNER

Any beekeepers that have noticed any abnormal loss of colonies in your apiaries, please contact your inspector.

While it is considered normal to have an over wintering loss, if you notice your losses are greater than 20%, this may warrant an inspection.

## SWARM LIST

Swarm season is here. So it is time to update our list. There has been a problem with us giving out-of-date information. So we are going to completely update the list. If you have not updated your information for the swarm list since January 2014, your information is no longer on the list.

If you would like to be added to the swarm list, you will need to contact the office. We will compile a new list annually. This will help those interested in catching swarms, as well as the public. Also, the swarm list is on our website and updated

as needed. Please call our office @ 501-225-1598 or you can email [Dana.Jones@aspb.ar.gov](mailto:Dana.Jones@aspb.ar.gov) .

Please remember that it is a violation of Pest Control Law to remove bees from a structure for a fee without a license. If you are interested in obtaining a license please contact Seth Dunlap in our Pest Control Section.

