

State Representative
Cliff Bentz
House District 60

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Congress Acts to Provide Drought and Wolf Depredation Relief

SALEM--Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) recently received notice from Congressman Greg Walden's office that new programs included in the 2014 federal Farm Bill will help compensate ranchers for losses due to wolf attacks and drought. Since these programs are of great importance to ranchers and others whose businesses have been severely damaged over the past several years and to those who may be harmed in coming years by drought or by wolves, Rep. Bentz is relaying this information on to his constituents for their consideration.

The 2014 Farm Bill includes the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP).

The LIP provides livestock indemnity payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather, or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government and protected by federal law, such as is the case with the wolf. The LIP would compensate ranchers 75 percent of the market value the day before its death for their livestock, and is retroactive for losses dating back to October 1, 2011. More information about the LIP and how to apply can be found at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=pr&factsheet&type=detail&item=pf_20140212_distr_en_lip.html.

The LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers for grazing losses suffered due to draught or fire. Compensation ranges from 60-80 percent of monthly feed costs (depending on the specific situation), and is retroactive for losses dating back to October 1, 2011. More information about the LFP and how to apply can be found at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=pr&factsheet&type=detail&item=pf_20140214_distr_en_lfp.html.

The ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock to aid in the reduction of losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever) or adverse weather such as blizzards or wildfires not adequately covered by other programs. More information about ELAP can be found at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=elap>.

Rep. Bentz said, "I want my District 60 constituents to be aware of these programs, which could help in providing compensation for losses suffered as a result of the ESA (wolves) or from drought conditions. These programs reflect the hard work of our congressional delegation (particularly Congressman Walden) and national recognition of the value of and the risks faced by rural communities. It is important to note that these programs are retroactive. If someone suffered losses in the previous two years, they may be eligible for assistance. Please act quickly because time usually plays a big part in accessing these benefits."

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