



Trees: Disaster Financial Preparedness for Farmers 101

Farm Bill programs are accessed through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Below is an overview of assistance programs related to losses from wildfires.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP): provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters.

Eligibility:

- Trees, bushes, and vines from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes.
- Ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for sale.
- Does not include trees used for pulp or timber.
- Eligible trees, bushes, or vines must have suffered more than a 15% mortality loss due to a natural disaster
- Loss must be visible and obvious and not preventable through reasonable and available measures.
- Grower must have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred, but not required to own the land on which they were planted
- Replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the TAP application is approved
- Cumulative total quantity of acres planted trees, bushes or vines for which an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower can exceed TAP payments cannot exceed 1,000 acres annually.
- Adjusted Gross Income of the person or legal entity applying for TAP cannot exceed \$900,000
- For tree, bush, or vine replanting, payment is the lesser of a) 75% of the actual cost of replanting or rehabilitation, both in excess of the 15% damage or mortality, or b) the maximum eligible amount established for the practice by the FSA.
- Deadline to submit an application and supporting documentation is the later of 60 calendar days after publication in the federal register or within 90 calendar days of the date of the disaster or date when the loss is apparent to the producer.

