



Programs for Livestock Producers Affected by Flooding



Farm Planning To Reduce Damage from Flooding

Maintaining fences & watering facilities in flood prone areas is a challenge. Producers have to decide based on history of stream flooding, watershed maps and other information where is best to locate fences and watering points.

Fencing: The type fence that requires the least maintenance in flood prone areas is smooth high tensile wire with as few posts and wires as possible to contain the animals. In place of end post use lag bolt insulators in sound low market value trees. Another option is a high wire or cable with other wires suspended from it reducing the need for most post. Droppers or battens allow most debris to flow under them. Remove debris from fence after each flood to reduce additional accumulation. If posts are used, angled braces can help deflect debris. The angled brace can even face up stream as a debris deflector, while the fence is running in the other

Other considerations are fencing so livestock have access to high ground. This is a challenge since fences perpendicular to the flood plain are most prone to damage. Placement of fence on top of the bench next to the stream is one option. In areas with frequent flooding it is best to use that area for hay or temporary fence for grazing.



Picture of Fencing destroyed by flood water and debris.

Information for homeowners and businesses affected during flood events is widely publicized, but what you might not be familiar with are government resources available to Livestock Producers and Farmers impacted by natural disasters. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) receive emergency funding to assist producers with on-farm recovery efforts.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. For land to be eligible, it must have a conservation problem created by the event. Program participants receive cost-share assistance up to 75% of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. More info at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

- ◆ **EC1—Removing Debris from Farmland**
- ◆ **EC2—Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling, or Similar measures**
- ◆ **EC3—Restoring Permanent Fences**
- ◆ **EC4—Restoring Conservation Structures & Other Installations**

- *Ditches & other permanently installed systems*
- *Re-establishment of permanent vegetative cover in conjunction with eligible structures & installations to prevent critical erosion*
- *Animal waste lagoons (outside 100 year floodplain)*

ECP sign-up periods are limited.. Signup as soon as reasonably possible after the disaster.



Break away fences would reduce impact of debris



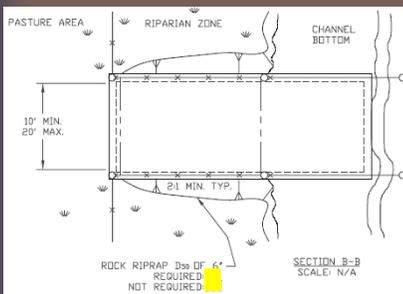
Watering Facility: Livestock can have limited access to the stream.

However, ideally the watering point will be located on higher ground, central to the acreage, so multiple paddocks can water from one point. Another option is for livestock to water from the stream. The access point needs to be in a stable location just above a riffle. Corral panels work well for fencing this area. They provide the option of adding or taking away panels depending on water levels.

If the water access is inset, it is prone to sedimentation. If it's out in the stream, velocity can destroy the panels. Decide based on the history of stream flooding, where to locate fences and watering points. Stream access points are most prone to damage from water entering the top and gullying the ramp. Decrease this by placing a berm at the top of the ramp.

When fencing across a stream, suspend rods, pipe or gates from a cable well above the expected flood level. Additional design information is available at the following link.

http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/TN/Stream_Crossing_CTST-STR-578-4.pdf



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www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
www.fsa.usda.gov/conservationprograms/

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), was established to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. EWP's purpose is to help groups of people relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by natural occurrences. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, or conservation district. EWP work must yield benefits to more than one person.

Up to 75% of the construction cost may be available for the following emergency measures:



- ◆ Debris Removal from Stream Channels, Road Culverts, and Bridges
- ◆ Protecting Eroded Steam Banks next to roads and other infrastructure that protect life and infrastructure
- ◆ Repairing Levees and Structures
- ◆ Reseeding Damaged Areas
- ◆ Correcting Damaged Drainage Facilities
- ◆ Purchasing Floodplain Easements

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) protects environmentally sensitive areas and improves water quality by excluding livestock and establishing vegetative buffers along streams and other water bodies. Compensation in the form of an annual rental payment is provided to the landowner for the areas taken out of production. These payments are available for up to 15 years. If all eligibility requirements are met, applications are automatically accepted. Cost share is also available to provide an alternative water source in fields where livestock are excluded from the natural water supply.

If eligible, up to 90% cost share may be available on the following practices:

- ◆ **Stream Exclusion Fencing**
- ◆ **Riparian Forest or Herbaceous Buffers**
- ◆ **Stream Crossings**
- ◆ **Livestock Watering Systems:**
 - **Watering Facility**
 - **Well**
 - **Pipeline**
 - **Spring Development**



Applications and additional information on these programs are available at your local USDA Service Center, or through the Tennessee NRCS & FSA websites.