

USDA Wildfire and Disaster Assistance Programs

The content of this presentation is accurate as of April 23, 2024, but is subject to change as new information becomes available. The views and opinions are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the position of the USDA or OSU Extension.

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<https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/emergency-and-disaster-preparedness/>



Wildfires: Livestock Feeding, Animal Welfare, Farm Stress

David Lalman and Rosslyn Biggs, OSU Extension beef cattle specialists, discuss the aftermath of the February 2024 wildfires, which burned more than one million acres in Oklahoma and Texas. Dr. Lalman and Dr. Biggs offer guidance on feeding livestock who've lost forage sources, caring for wounded animals, animal wellbeing, the importance of documenting loss and farm stress. If you or someone you know is experiencing extreme stress, contact Oklahoma's Mental Health Helpline anytime by calling or texting 9-8-8.

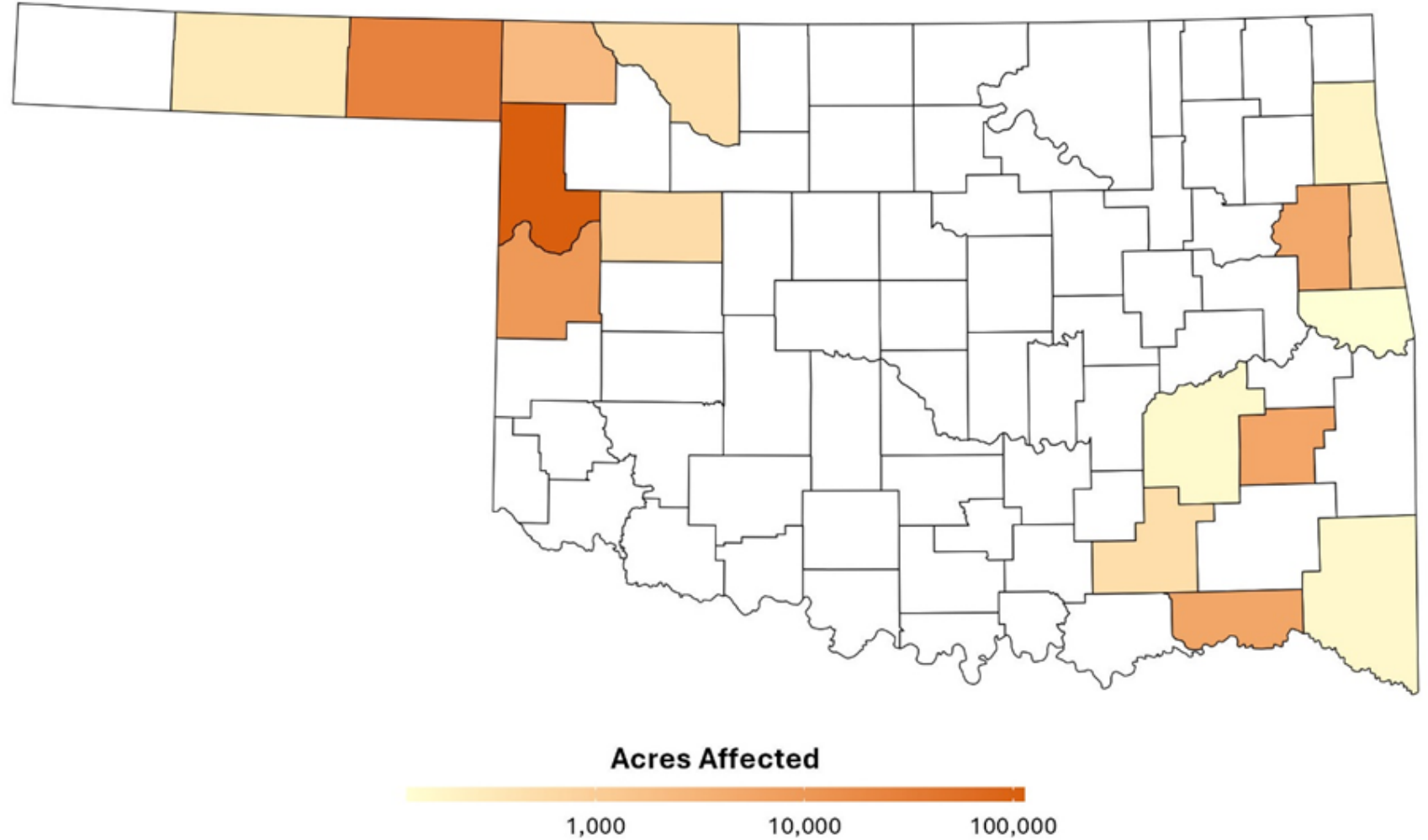


Catesby Fire (Ellis County)
90,570 acres

Smokehouse Creek Fire
(Ellis and Roger Mills
Counties)
31,569 OK acres*

Slapout Fire
(Beaver County)
26,048 acres

*TX and OK had a combined
1,059,570 total acres burned
in the Smokehouse Road Fire,



Data Source: Oklahoma Forestry Service Fire Report March 6, 2024. Map developed by OSU Extension.

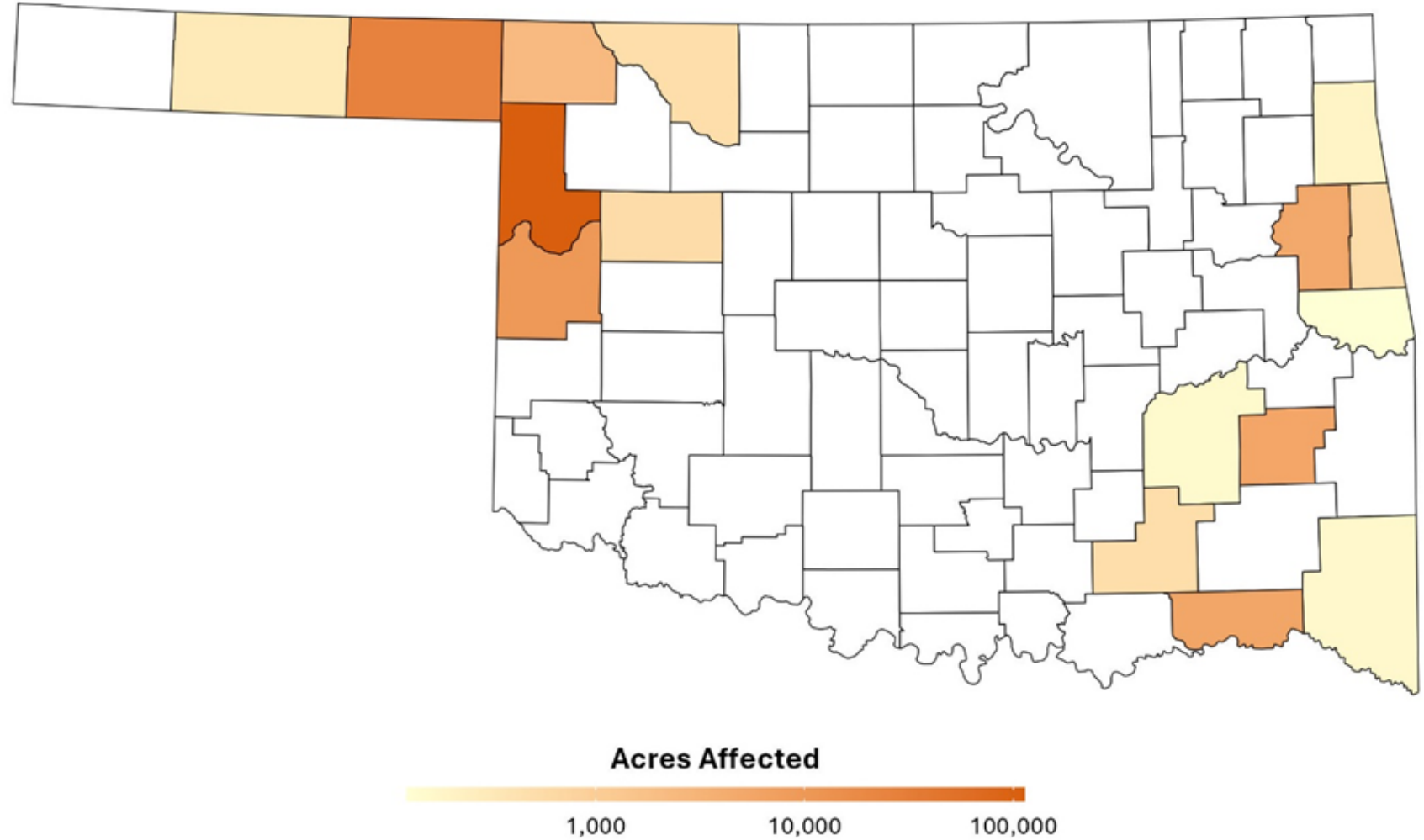


Total Damages: \$32.9 million

Beaver County: \$8.73 million
or \$335 /burned acre

Ellis County: \$22.76 million
or \$203/burned acre

Roger Mills County: \$1.07
million or \$107/burned acre



Data Source: Oklahoma Forestry Service Fire Report March 6, 2024. Map developed by OSU Extension.



Loss Categories



Livestock

- Death loss
- Forced marketing



Fence line damage or loss



Injury assessment and treatment



Land recuperation



Hay Loss and Supplemental Feeding



Infrastructure damage or loss

Loss Categories



Livestock
Indemnity
Program (LIP)



Emergency
Conservation
Program (ECP)



Environmental
Quality Incentives
Program (EQIP)



Emergency Assistance
for Livestock,
Honeybees and Farm
Raised Fish (ELAP)





Programs for cattle loss

- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
 - Pays 75% of a fixed market value for cattle that perished in the fire or had to be euthanized due to fire injuries
 - Includes adult cows, bulls, and calves by weight category
 - Only pays for losses in excess of normal mortality, as established by the county Farm Service Agency committee
 - Applications due **March 3, 2025**
 - This is a change from previous years, when a 30 day notice of loss was required!
 - Also offsets market losses from forced culling due to injury within 30 days of the fire.



Considerations for LIP

- Documentation!
 - Must have evidence of ownership at the time of the disaster
 - Loan documents, applications to other USDA programs, vet records

- Resources

<https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/emergency-and-disaster-preparedness/wildfire/fsa-offers-program-for-livestock-loss-due-to-wildfires.html>

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index>



Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

- Offsets some of the cost for replacing fences or water tanks lost due to fire up to \$500,000.
- Applications must be approved before cleanup and replacement occurs.
- Administered at the county level for applications under \$250,000
- Unlike LIP, this program must be activated to receive applications.
- Up to 75% of the cost for any applicant
 - Up to 90% of the cost for beginning, socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmers and ranchers.
- **Advanced payment of up to 25% of the cost share for approved ECP applications.**



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

- Grazing and Feed Losses

- Payments are based on

- The number of days a pasture cannot be used due to the fire, not to exceed 180 days
 - Daily cost of grazing per day (\$1.94 for example)
 - Carrying capacity specific to the county

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index>



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

- Transportation cost of hay
 - We all became familiar with the ELAP hay transportation program during the drought.
 - Only hay brought in from more than 25 miles away is eligible.
 - Producers will be reimbursed at a rate of \$6.60 per mile for each mile above 25 miles.
 - Documentation! Detailed receipts that include the source address and delivery address as well as date.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index>



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

- Provisions for hauling water (\$0.10 per gallon)
- Provisions for excess mortality in honeybees in fire affected areas and the loss of hives.
 - Smoke can reduce ability to feed
 - Fire can reduce habitat affecting ability to feed
 - Direct fire damage to hives

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index>

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/disaster-assistance-for-honeybee-producers.html>



Conservation Programs and Land Recovery

- Emergency Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land
 - Emergency haying and grazing of CRP
 - Farm Service Agency administered
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Technical assistance in creating a recovery plan
 - Removing debris clogging waterways
 - Addressing long term forage losses or increased wind erosion.

Other programs to consider

- USDA Emergency Loans in approved counties can cover the replacement of essential property, like pens, tractors and trailers.
- Options available for producers who may have difficulty making FSA loan payments due to wildfire
- Federal crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can be used for crop damage (notice of loss should already be filed)

Other suggestions

- Before a disaster happens, review the protections you have in place.
- Designate one person as the contact for all disaster programs so nothing gets lost in the shuffle.
- Utilize county, area and state Extension resources
- Know who your partners are in the community

Oklahoma Wildfire Response

Oklahoma residents often experience first-hand the devastating effects of wildfires. Some families lose livestock, homes and outbuildings, while other structures in the path of the flames are spared.

Below are resources to help Oklahomans better understand fire damage and cope with stress, as well as begin the recovery process post-wildfire.

[DONATE TO VICTIMS OF 2024 WILDFIRES](#)



Thank you!

Questions

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