



NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota State Water Commission

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March 14, 2019

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Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Assistance Program Bill Allows Higher Cost-Share for Projects

HB 1085, a bill for an act to amend and reenact section 61-34-04 of the North Dakota Century Code and to declare an emergency, relating to the State Water Commission's Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Assistance Program (Program) has been signed by Governor Burgum. The law became effective on March 8, 2019 after being filed with the Secretary of State.

ND House Bill 1085 was introduced by the State Water Commission. This bill aimed to amend the existing law to have cost-share dollar amounts removed from Century Code, since they already exist in Administrative Code. This will allow the Water Commission to be more responsive to needed changes in the future – particularly during emergency drought conditions. Through this Legislative change, cost-share amounts will now increase from \$3,500 to \$4,500 per project, as provided for in Administrative Code.

Any Program applications received after the effective date of March 8, 2019, will be eligible for the new cost-share amount. However, the new funding amount will not be retroactive for previously approved projects.

The Program is administered by the State Water Commission and provides 50 percent cost-share assistance, of up to \$4,500 per project, with a maximum of three projects per applicant. The Program is for eligible livestock producers in designated counties experiencing drought-related impacts to their livestock operations.

Since the reactivation of the Program in 2017, total funding of \$2.025 million has been allocated to the Program, and funding has been approved for 625 projects involving 447 applicants. Currently, funding remains available for producers with eligible projects.

Eligible items include: new water wells; rural water system connections; pipeline extensions and pasture taps; and associated works, labor, materials, and equipment rentals to develop new water supply projects.

For additional details about the Program, please visit the Water Commission's website at www.swc.nd.gov and scroll down to "Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program." For specific questions about program eligibility, call (701) 328-4989 or email swclivestock@nd.gov.