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France opens emergency farm aid fund after 2026 heatwave, drought, wildfires

Applications run through October 12, with payments capped at €4,000 for farms with limited vineyard acreage.

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France has opened an emergency aid fund for farms hit by this year’s heatwave, drought and wildfires, offering short-term financial support to the most fragile operations as they prepare for the next production cycle.

The measure, presented by the state and relayed Monday by UGVC, is aimed at easing cash-flow pressure on farms that have been weakened by the 2026 weather shocks. Applications opened on September 18 and will be accepted through October 12 on the government’s “Mes Démarches Simplifiées” online platform.

To qualify, an applicant must be a principal farmer. For a farm set up as a company or other legal structure, at least one partner must hold principal farm operator status. The scheme is also limited to operations with less than 10% of their usable agricultural area planted with vines, a threshold that sharply narrows eligibility for vineyard-heavy businesses.

That detail matters for the drinks industry because it means the program is not a broad rescue package for wine estates. Instead, it is directed mainly at farms with limited vineyard exposure, including operations in market gardening, horticulture, fruit growing, livestock and field crops. Even so, the support could still help preserve activity and liquidity in mixed-farming areas tied to wine and other beverage regions, which may in turn support local labor, suppliers and preparation for the next season.

The aid levels differ by production type. For market gardening and specialized crops, including horticulture, tree fruit and small-fruit production, the base payment is €1,000, with an additional €250 for each 2026 employment contract lasting more than four months. The maximum for that category is €2,000.

For livestock farms, the base payment is €1,000, with another €1,000 available for replanting grassland and-or transporting fodder. The ceiling is also €2,000. To claim that support, applicants must provide 2026 invoices for transport and-or seed purchases totaling more than €500 before tax.

For field crops, the base aid is €4,000. The authorities said the amounts tied to the three production categories cannot be combined.

Young farmers and newly established operators can receive an extra €750 if they have been in business for less than three years, meaning they set up on or after January 1, 2024. According to the published rules, that increase applies regardless of the farm’s legal form or type of production.

The program also applies the GAEC transparency rule, up to a limit of two partners. In practice, that can affect how aid is calculated for certain group farming structures.

If the number of requests exceeds available funding, officials will prioritize files. One of the main factors is expected to be the deterioration in farm income between 2023 and 2025. For companies, the average income will be examined.

Applicants are being asked to prepare several supporting documents before filing. Required papers include the farm’s bank account details, a de minimis declaration form, proof of affiliation with the Mutualité Sociale Agricole, and tax assessments for 2023 and 2025. Depending on the type of operation, additional documents may be needed. Farms in market gardening and specialized crops are asked to provide 2026 employment contracts. Livestock producers must submit 2026 invoices and proof of payment, including bank statements. Cooperative member farmers using an associated account to justify payment must also show an effective bank debit for the full invoice amount.

The state framed the measure as an exceptional response to a year marked by severe climate-related damage. The stated goal is to help vulnerable farms manage immediate financial strain and continue operating under better conditions for the next campaign.