



Niobrara County Service Center

905 S. Main; Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-3454

Fax: (855) 415-3433

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Staff

Clinton Anderson
JoAnn Wade

Farm Service Agency

County Committee

Robert Freeman Jason ZumBrunnen
Joe Kruse Carol Geisinger, Advisor

Farm Service Agency

Staff

Tommy Stephens, CED
Kimberly Nusbaum, PT
Duane Wisroth, FLM

September 2016

LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM

Niobrara County livestock producers who have suffered a grazing loss due to the drought in the northern portion of the county may be eligible for assistance under the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for a three month period (based on drought severity). Applicants will need to provide documentation of grazing acres and documents that show livestock inventory numbers.

If you have suffered a grazing loss due to drought in 2016 please call the office to set up an appointment to file an application.

NIORRARA COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

On June 30, 2016 Niobrara County was declared a contiguous disaster county due to drought. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine. Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

NAP PRODUCTION RECORDS

NAP producers, now is the time to submit production evidence for your 2016 crops. Submitting production evidence for harvested crops, such as bale counts and weights are necessary to maintain accurate yields for coverage. Accurate yields are essential in calculating payments for losses. You can still submit previous year's records if you forgot in the past and those values will be used for your 2017 approved yield.

USDA OFFERS NEW LOANS FOR PORTABLE FARM STORAGE AND HANDLING EQUIPMENT

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

The program also offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

Earlier this year, FSA significantly expanded the list of commodities eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loan. Eligible commodities now include aquaculture; floriculture; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables; corn, grain sorghum, rice, oilseeds, oats, wheat, triticale, spelt, buckwheat, lentils, chickpeas, dry peas sugar, peanuts, barley, rye, hay, honey, hops, maple sap, unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt and renewable biomass. FSFL microloans can also be used to finance wash and pack equipment used post-harvest, before a commodity is placed in cold storage.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 720
LUSK, WY 82225

Important Dates to Remember	
September 5	Labor Day – Office Closed
October 10	Columbus Day – Office Closed
Within 15 days of noticing crop loss	File NAP Notice of Loss
Within 30 days of noticing livestock loss	File LIP Notice of Loss

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and wish to file a program complaint must contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) must contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.