



# United States Department of Agriculture

## January 2016

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office  
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126  
Sheridan, WY 82801

(307)672-5820 Ext. 2  
Fax: 866-574-1670

Toll Free Number:  
1-866-262-4396

Johnson County Office Day:  
First Wednesday of each month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center  
621 Fetterman Street  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 126

### FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED  
Janice Wheeler, PT  
Staci Green Steiner, Temp. PT

### County Committee Members:

Steve Schuette, Chairperson  
Susan Moyes, Vice chairperson  
John Buyok, Regular Member  
Raymon Turk, Regular Member  
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member

### Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner

### Farm Program Specialist:

Cindy Hottel

### Dates to Remember:

**February 15, 2016** – President's Day- Office Closed

**April 1, 2016** – NAP sales closing date for ALL eligible NAP crops including Rangeland

### Next COC Meeting:

Will be announced

## Disaster Assistance for Wyoming Farmers and Rancher

Wyoming producers have encountered extreme weather conditions over the years, from significant drought conditions to extreme cold and snow. LIP and ELAP are two disaster relief programs implemented by the 2014 Farm Bill to help producers recover from these disasters.

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program was reauthorized under the 2014 Farm Bill to provide assistance to livestock producers for livestock death losses in excess of their normal mortality loss. (Normal mortality is the percentage of livestock that can be expected to die during the calendar year as a result of injury, sickness or other causes that can routinely take place using good livestock handling practices).

To qualify for LIP, eligible losses must be the direct result of an adverse weather event which includes fatalities caused by floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold with precipitation. (*Please note: drought is not considered an eligible adverse weather event*). Other loss conditions caused by diseases that cannot be controlled by vaccines and are caused/transmitted by vectors (biting insects) may also be eligible for payment and should be reported. In addition, LIP also covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

- To be eligible, producers will need to submit a **Notice of Loss** within 30 days of the date the loss is apparent to the producer. A hard count of the number of losses will not need to be declared at this time, but producers will need to state what type of weather event occurred and its beginning and end date. This can be done in person or over the telephone.
- To be eligible, **Applications for Payment** must be submitted no later than either of the following:
  1. 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent to the producer
  2. 30 calendar days after the end of the year.
- Multiple Notice of Loss and Application for Payments can be filed during the year.

To speed up the application process, livestock owners who experienced losses will be asked to bring records verifying those losses to their local FSA county office.

### Livestock Death Loss Documentation

Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died should be supplemented, if possible by such items as:

- Date of loss and description of cause of loss. (Diary, Calendar, Journal, Computer programs designed for herd management).
- Photographs of dead livestock (dated if possible).
- Beginning and ending inventory (Purchase records, production records, veterinary records).
- Bank records or other loan documents.
- Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documentation.

**Please Note: *Accurate Documentation is crucial!* Document when you lose livestock due to both Adverse Weather and Normal Mortality.**

## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES AND FARM-RAISED FISH (ELAP)**

The ELAP program is administered by the Farm Service Agency and provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. The ELAP program is designed to aid in the reduction of losses not covered by other disaster programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill. Eligible losses for ELAP include losses due to disease, excessive heat or winds, flooding, blizzards, hail, wildfires on non-federal managed lands, freeze damage, water shortages, and insects; or in the case of honeybees, losses due to colony collapse disorder.

For 2015 and subsequent program year losses producers can apply to receive ELAP benefits at their local FSA Service Center. In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered livestock losses should submit a notice of loss to the local FSA office that maintains their farm records. For program year 2015 and subsequent program years:

- The final date to file a Notice of Loss is 30 days after livestock loss is apparent.
- The final date to submit an application for Payment is November 1<sup>st</sup> after the program year in which the loss occurred.

*Please Note: Producers will be asked to provide supporting documents that will show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock inventory, and evidence that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased.*

## **The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) For 2015 and Subsequent Years**

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and is administered by FSA. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of *noninsurable* crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or disaster events that prevent crop planting.

### **NAP Producers - - - -**

**If you thought you missed the December signup deadline -Hold on to Your Hats!**

**April 1 2016** is the new signup deadline for producers to apply for 2016 NAP coverage *for both Spring/Fall Seeded NAP crops*, Grass hay and Native Range. The fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. For producers with interest in multiple counties, the total fee cannot exceed \$1,875.00.

### **New NAP Coverage Levels**

The 2014 Farm Bill allows producers to purchase higher levels of coverage beyond the catastrophic coverage level for an additional premium. New, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers are eligible for free catastrophic coverage and higher levels of coverage for a significantly discounted premium. Additional coverage must be elected by the producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. *Please Note: Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage.*

Producers who have a 2016 NAP policy will need to provide our office with *current*, signed copies of the following:

- BLM grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- Forest Service grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- State land lease and State land subleases
- Private Leases.

# Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance

Disaster programs	Blizzard	Fire	Hurricane/ Typhoon	Excessive Moisture/ Flood	Excessive Winds/ Tornado	Drought	Hail	Volcanic Eruption/ Emissions	Freeze	Earthquake
<b>Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)</b> - provides funding to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)</b> - provides payments to eligible owners of rural nonindustrial private forest land to carry out emergency measures to restore forest health on land damaged by natural disaster events such as floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)</b> - provides payments to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to help compensate for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires.	Yes	Yes, except on federally managed land	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, except for water transportation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Emergency Loan Program (EM)</b> - provides EM loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Livestock Forage Disaster - Program (LFP)</b> - provides compensation for grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition or fire on Federally managed land during the normal grazing period for the county.	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)</b> - provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, except when associated with anthrax	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)</b> - provides financial assistance for noninsurable crop losses due to drought, flood, hurricane, or other natural disasters.	Yes	Yes, Only as a related condition to an eligible disaster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Tree Assistance Program (TAP)</b> - provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or, where applicable, rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines lost by natural disasters.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office  
 1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126  
 Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Steven Schuette and Susan Moyes for their election by voters to serve on the Sheridan-Johnson FSA County Committee. Steve was re-elected to represent LAA 2 farmers and ranchers in Sheridan County and Susan Moyes was re-elected to continue representing LAA 4 farmers and ranchers in Johnson County.

Our FSA office staff would like to thank all the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The election of FSA County Committee members is important to all farmers and ranchers in our agricultural communities. *It is your involvement that makes the county committee system work.*

#### **FSA County Committee Organizational Meeting**

The organizational meeting for Sheridan-Johnson county COC members was held on January 13, 2016 to determine the chairperson, vice chairperson and regular members on the county committee for the 2016 calendar year. By unanimous vote, the Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Committee for 2016 will be as follows:

- Steve Schuette, Chairperson LAA2
- Susan Moyes, Vice Chairperson LAA4
- Raymon Turk, Regular Member LAA5
- John Buyok, Regular Member LAA1
- Thad Stoltz, Regular Member LAA3

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).