



NEWSLETTER



Fremont County

508 N Broadway Ave, Riverton, WY 82501

September 2016

Farm Service Agency

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FSA Staff

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

Bill Jennings, Chairperson
Bryan Hamilton, Vice-Chairman
Will O'Neal, Member

Farm Loan Staff

Brian Harrell, FLM
Carol Zogata, PT

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Available funding for ECP is determined annually by Congress. ECP is administered by FSA state and county committees. Subject to availability of funds, locally-elected members of FSA county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which is authorized by the FSA national office. To learn more about FSA county committees, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Fremont County has been approved for 2016 Flood ECP. Funding is not guaranteed and cannot be requested until after the signup period. The signup period ends and requests for assistance must be received by *September 15, 2016*.

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type/extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems, if untreated, would: impair or endanger the land; materially affect the land's productive capacity; represent unusual damage that, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area and; be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.

As determined by FSA county committees, ECP participants may receive cost-share assistance up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Qualified limited-resource producers may receive cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Individual or cumulative requests for cost-share assistance of \$50,000 or less per person or legal entity, per disaster are approved at the county committee level. Cost-share assistance requests exceeding \$50,000 require approval from the state committee or national office. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity per disaster.

Technical assistance may be provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as: debris removal from farmland; grading, shaping or leveling land; restoring livestock fences and conservation structures; providing water for livestock during periods of severe drought.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather including but not limited to: **flood, fire, larkspur, blizzards, endangered or protected wild animal kills, and lightning.**

To be eligible for LIP: a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died; livestock must have died as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event occurring; application must be made no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event and in the calendar year for which benefits are requested; have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day they died and; not have been produced for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Excluded livestock includes wild free roaming animals, pets or animals used for recreational purposes, such as hunting, roping or for show.

For 2012 and subsequent program years, no person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total in payments under LFP, ELAP, and LIP combined per year.

In applying the limitation on average adjusted gross income (AGI), an individual or entity is ineligible for payment under LIP if the average AGI of the individual or entity exceeds \$900,000. Direct attribution provisions apply to LIP for 2011 and subsequent years. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity also will be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

Producers who suffer livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to the local FSA office. **To be eligible, the notice of loss must be submitted the earlier of: 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the producer; or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred.**

Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as, but not limited to: photographs or video records to document the loss, dated if possible; purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents; written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

Applicants must provide adequate proof the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event or eligible attack by an eligible animal or avian predator in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible event may be documented by: purchase records, veterinarian records, bank or other loan documents, rendering truck receipts or certificates, Federal Emergency Management Agency records, National Guard records, written contracts, production records, records assembled for tax purposes, property tax records, private insurance documents, and similar documents.

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, FSA will accept reliable records in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records as proof of death. Reliable records may include, but are not limited to; contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the adverse weather event; picture(s) with a date; brand inspection records; dairy herd improvement records; and similar reliable documents.

The livestock owner or livestock contract grower, as applicable, certifies in writing: there is no other documentation of death available; the number of livestock in inventory at the time of the adverse weather event; third party provides their telephone number, address and a written statement containing: specific details about their knowledge of the livestock deaths; their affiliation with the livestock owner; the accuracy of the deaths claimed by the livestock owner.

FSA will use data furnished by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary, however, without all required data program benefits will not be approved or provided.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PRTOGRAM (LFP)

Drought LFP is dependent on the National Drought Monitor. Fremont County has not qualified for drought LFP; however, producers who graze the pastures lost to the **Lava Mountain Fire** might be eligible.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

In addition to possible LFP payments for wildfire grazing loss, producers may be eligible for a NAP grazing loss payment if they had purchased 2016 grazing insurance. Notices of Losses can be taken over the phone. Please contact us as soon as possible as losses are required to be reported within 14 day s of loss be apparent.

USDA OFFERS TARGETED FARM LOAN FUNDING FOR UNDERSERVED GROUPS AND BEGINNING FARMERS

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan.

UPCOMING REPORTING DEADLINES

2017 Fall Acreage Reports

Please contact the FSA County Office to complete your 2017 fall acreage report. If you are planting a fall seeded crop, you will need to wait to report your planted acres and the final plant date. Contact the County Office to make an appointment to complete your reports. The deadline to complete your fall acreage report is November 15, 2016.

2016 Hay Production Reports

Reports of 2016 hay production can be made at this time. The deadline for these reports is November 15, 2016. Please contact the county office while this information is fresh in your mind.

2016 NAP Notice of Loss

Reporting 2016 NAP Losses The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Attention all Buyer of Agriculture Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary Of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311."

Fremont County FSA Office
508 N Broadway Ave
Riverton, WY 82501



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****Attention****

If you are not receiving our newsletters and updates electronically, now is the time to sign up. The paper newsletters will soon be gone so it is vitally important that you sign up for GovDelivery. Contact this office to find out how you can subscribe to GovDelivery or subscribe online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>. This may soon be our only option of advertising our programs.

Dates to Remember

Sept 15th	Flood Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Deadline
Sept 20-22nd	County Office Closed for all Employee Statewide Training
Nov 15th	2016 NAP Crop Production Reports Deadline
Nov 15th	2017 Fall Acreage Reports for Perennials Deadline
Ongoing	NAP Loss; report within 15 days of loss being apparent
Ongoing	LIP and ELAP Livestock Loss; report within 60 days adverse event

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)