

August 2016



- [WHIT FIRE](#)
- [USDA EXPANDS MICROLOANS](#)
- [Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#)
- [Breaking New Ground](#)

Park County FSA Updates

Park County FSA Office

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County Committee:
Klodette Stroh, Chairperson
Lynn George, Vice Chairperson
Michael Hogg, Regular Member

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

WHIT FIRE

If you have lost grazing and/or livestock to wildfires in Park County, please contact the office. Losses may be eligible for assistance under the 2014 Farm Bill Livestock Disaster Programs.

LFP (Livestock Forage Program) assistance may be available for grazing losses sustained on federally managed land. The applicant must provide documentation that grazing was prohibited or lessened by the Federal Agency. Applications must be filed no later than January 30, 2017.

ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program) assistance may be available for grazing losses sustained on non-federally managed land (owned, leased, State) or additional feed purchases to replace lost feed. The applicant must provide proof that livestock was removed from affected acreage and/or receipts from additional feed purchases. Notice of loss may be made by phone, fax, email or in person. Notice of loss must be filed in the County office within 30 days of losses becoming apparent.

Assistance may be available for livestock death losses from man-made fire. Notice of loss may be made by phone, fax, email or in person. Notice of loss must be filed in the County office within 30 days of losses becoming apparent.

LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program) assistance may be available for livestock death losses from natural caused fire. Notice of loss may be made by phone, fax, email or in person. Notice of loss must be filed in the County office within 30 days of losses becoming apparent.

Please call the office to find out more about these programs and how they may assist you!

USDA EXPANDS MICROLOANS

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary the week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to help with farm land and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from USDA-FSA.

To learn more about the microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans or contact the Park County FSA office.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Filing a Notice of Loss:

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 NAP eligible crops that includes grass hay, small grain hay, improved grass for grazing and native pasture grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office the earlier of:

- 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop first becomes apparent.
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date. The notice of loss notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, in person, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days. Producers who purchased a NAP policy for 2016 should be taking action to file a notice of loss. Producers who do not have a 2016 NAP policy may want to consider buying one on their crops for 2017. The deadline to do so is April 1, 2017.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).