

April 2016



BULLETIN



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Weston County FSA Updates

Weston County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Peggy Livingston

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner

Program Technicians:
Vacant

County Committee:
Tim Tysdal, Chairman
Chuck Grieves, Vice Chairman
Randy Oleson, Member
Edye Ready, Minority Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: April 25, 2016
1:00 p.m.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to noninsurable crop losses due to drought, flood, or other natural disasters. Landowners, tenants, or sharecroppers who share in the risk of producing and eligible crop are eligible. Eligible crops are those where crop insurance is unavailable. Also eligible for NAP coverage are controlled-environment crops (mushroom and floriculture), specialty crops (honey and maple sap), and value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery, and turfgrass sod). The 2014 Farm Bill allows producers to purchase higher levels of coverage beyond the catastrophic coverage level for an additional premium. Beginning farmer or rancher, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers and ranchers are eligible for free catastrophic coverage and higher levels of coverage for a significantly discounted premium. For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

DOWN PAYMENT FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Down payment Farm Ownership Loans were developed to help targeted underserved and beginning farmers and ranchers purchase a farm or ranch. These loans provide a way for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation of farmers and ranchers. The applicant provides a five percent down payment; FSA provides 45 percent of the needed loan funds at a reduced interest rate and other financing provides the remaining 50 percent. To learn more, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM (EM)

FSA provides EM loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disaster, or quarantine. EM loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain credit from commercial sources and own or operate land located in a county declared by the President as a disaster area or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a disaster area or quarantine area (for physical losses only, the FSA Administrator may authorize emergency loan assistance). Emergency loan funds may be used to 1) restore or replace essential property, 2) pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, 3) pay essential family living expenses, 4) reorganize the farming operation, and 5) refinance certain debts. For more information, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

ECP provides funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind, erosion, floods, and other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. The natural disaster must create new conservation problem, which, if not treated, would 1) impair or endanger the land, 2) materially affect the productive capacity of the land, 3) represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area, and 4) be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Subject to availability of funds, locally elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which may be authorized by the FSA national office. Eligible ECP participants may receive financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency land rehabilitation practices as determined by county FSA committees; qualified limited resource producers may receive financial assistance of up to 90 percent. To learn more, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

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