



December, 2015

Weston County FSA Office

1225 Washington Blvd.,
Suite 2
Newcastle, WY 82701

(307)746-2701
Phone
www.fsa.usda.gov/wy

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Weston County Staff

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County Committee

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Edye Ready



Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops, pasture grass, winter wheat, and all spring seeded crops now have a sales closing date of **April 1st**. NAP offers a “buy-up” coverage on all eligible crops harvested for forage (hay). Through the “buy-up” option, coverage can be purchased for levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how “buy-up” coverage can work for you. If you currently have a 2016 NAP basic coverage policy you simply come to the office, select which level of buy-up coverage you want and sign the policy. If you do not currently have a 2016 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms. FSA has a great tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP. **Remember, the deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016.**

Filing for NAP Losses

If you have a loss on a covered NAP crop and wish to receive loss benefits from our office, you must file a notice of loss within **15 days** of the earlier of: 1) date of the disaster event that caused the loss or 2) when the loss is apparent to you. A notice of loss must be filed for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payments. If you wish to graze the damaged crop, it **must be appraised** prior to turning the livestock onto the field.

KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office:

- Name/Address/Phone Number
- Bank Account

- Sold Property
- Purchased Property
- Leased Additional Property
- Relinquished Leased Property

Failing to report changes to the County Office can significantly impact the timeliness of processing program applications and benefits.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grassland Signup Underway

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland, and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. The CRP-Grassland initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50% of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks, and fences. FSA began accepting applications on an ongoing basis beginning September 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based upon the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period was November 20, 2015. For additional information, please call or visit the Weston County FSA Office.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of **normal mortality** due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses due to adverse weather, including but not limited to losses due to floods, blizzards, lightning and wildfires.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) cont.

For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- File a Notice of Loss
- Sign an Application for Payment by 1/30/16.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program is a permanent program providing compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county (April 1 through October 15). LFP also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that 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. An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought monitor as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 1 monthly payment, (a monthly payment is equal to 60% of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock or the calculated normal carrying capacity of the grazing land of the eligible producer).
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 3 monthly payments.
- D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4 (exceptional drought)

intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 4 monthly payments.

- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for 4 weeks (not necessarily consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 5 monthly payments.

Eligible livestock must have been owned, purchased, or entered into a contract to purchase during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition. Have been maintained for commercial use as part of operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition. Livestock used for recreational purposes, such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show are not eligible.

Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying event as a part of normal business operations are not eligible.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA, and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Youth loan eligibility requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirement.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises.

USDA is referred to as the "Lender of First Opportunity" because we make and guarantee loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who otherwise might not be able to obtain a loan from a commercial lender. Veterans may also qualify for incentives that make it easier to acquire capital for a farm operation. USDA makes different types of loans depending on what the loan is for:

- **Farm Ownership Loans** will help you purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, construct a new or improve an existing farm or ranch building, pay closing costs, and pay for soil and water conservation and protection.

- **Operating Loans** will help you purchase livestock and equipment, pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses, and refinance farm-related debt. Some examples of what this loan can be used for include seed and fertilizer, marketing and distribution, hoop houses to extend the growing season, irrigation, and delivery vehicles.
- **Microloans** are operating loans designed for smaller purchases and involve a shortened application

USDA also makes conservation and emergency loans, guarantees loans, and provided land contract guarantees.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the County Office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a Power of Attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office for more information.

Attention Buyers of Agricultural 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 required to place the lien holders 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 a 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 (307)777-7311.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a **written request for exclusion** is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents and for the

individual's Average Gross Income Certification and Consent for Disclosure.

Request Change of Administrative County

In response to concerns about administrative county and its impact on some 2014 Farm Bill programs, authority has been provided to allow farm and ranch operators and/or owners to move their farm records to a different administrative county. The basic rule is that the administrative county for a farm or ranch is the county in which the farm or ranch is physically located. Exceptions to this rule are:

- If there is not FSA Office in the county in which the farm or ranch is located or FSA county offices have been consolidated, the farm will be administratively located in a county contiguous county to the physical county in the same State that is most convenient for the operator and owner.
- If a county contiguous to the county in which the farm is physically located in the same State does not have an FSA county office, the farm will be administratively located in a contiguous county in another contiguous State that is convenient to the operator and owner.
- When land on the farm or ranch is physically located in more than one county, the farm will be administered in one county office which will be responsible for administration of programs for all counties involved.

Requests from an operator and owner of a farm or ranch for a change of administrative county in the same State must be done no later than August 1 for the change to take effect that calendar year.



Weston County FSA Office
1225 Washington Blvd., Suite 2
Newcastle, WY 82701



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Dates to Remember

December 7, 2015	ARC/PLC 2016 signup begins
December 7, 2015	County Committee voting deadline
December 25, 2015	Office closed
January 1, 2015	Office closed
January 18, 2015	Office closed
April 1, 2016	NAP purchase closing date
July 15, 2016	Crop reporting deadline for spring seeded crops
August 1, 2016	ARC/PLC 2016 enrollment deadline
August 1, 2016	Last day to request farm reconstitution or farm transfer

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)