

# Cowboy Country Connection



# NEWSLETTER



**May/June  
2016**

## **Carbon/Albany County**

101 Cypress Ave.

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<http://www.usda.gov/wy>

### **Hours:**

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **County Committee**

Melinda Sims, Chairperson

Montie Munroe, Vice-Chairperson

Michelle Hall, Member

Ryan Wilson, Member

Pat Sheehan, Member

### **Farm Service Agency**

Sheryl Hunter, CED

Alyssa VanAken, PT

Dixie Mount, FLO- Platte

County, 307-322-4050

### **NRCS**

Mark Shirley, DC Saratoga

Mike Boardman, Medicine

Bow 379-2221

Caleb Owens, Baggs 383-7860

Ruben Vasquez, DC Laramie 745-3698



## **USDA Offers Flood Impacted Farmers & Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers of federal farm program benefits that may be available to help eligible producers recover from recent heavy rains and flooding.

FSA offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs and loans include:

**Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops (including native grass for grazing) when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2016 crops.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** – offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather (flood, blizzard, wildfire, tornado, lightning, extreme heat or cold.) Producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** – provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or harvested forage intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock. Harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked, or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent. ELAP also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from grazing pasture due to floodwaters.

**Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought or flooding.

**Emergency Conservation Program** – provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters (including fence loss.)

**HayNet** – Is an internet-based Hay and Grazing Net Ad Service allowing farmers and ranchers to share “Need Hay” and “Have Hay” ads online. There is also another feature to post ads for grazing land available or needed.

[www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet).



## **Important Dates**

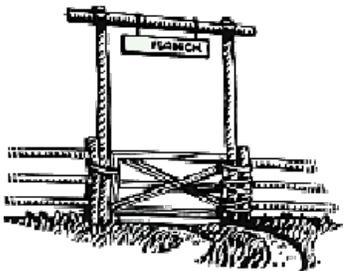
**May 30** – Office Closed - Memorial Day

**June 15** – Albany County Office day

**July 4-** Office closed Independence Day

**July 20** – Albany County Office Day

**Anytime--** Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.



# **Report Livestock**

## **Losses**

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 in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold. 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 90 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

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2016 must file both of the following:

- A Notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2017
- An application for payment by March 31, 2017.

Additional information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Update Your Records**

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, or an incorrect name, or business name on file they need to be reported to our office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan. If you have and updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

## **ARC and PLC Acreage Maintenance**

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC, or PLC the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

## **Direct Loans**

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans. Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

## **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event. Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an adverse weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2016
- An application for payment by November 1, 2016

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP Fact Sheets are available online.

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

The view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at [www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets).

Carbon/Albany County FSA Office  
101 Cypress Ave.  
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## **Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

To learn more about FSA, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact this office at 307-326-5657 x 2.

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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 Avenue, 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).