

January 2016



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Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Updates

Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office

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County Committee:

Steve Schuette, Chairman

Susan Moyes, Vice-Chair

John Buyok

Raymon Turk

Thad Stoltz

Next County Committee Meeting: To Be Announced

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and is administered by FSA. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or disaster events that prevent crop planting.

NAP Producers - - - -

If you thought you missed the December signup deadline -Hold on to Your Hats!

April 1, 2016 is the new signup deadline for producers to apply for 2016 NAP coverage for both Spring/Fall Seeded NAP crops, Grass hay and Native Range. The fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. For producers with interest in multiple counties, the total fee cannot exceed \$1,875.00.

New NAP Coverage Levels

The 2014 Farm Bill allows producers to purchase higher levels of coverage beyond the catastrophic coverage level for an additional premium. New, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers are eligible for free catastrophic coverage and higher levels of coverage for a significantly discounted premium. Additional coverage must be elected by the producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Please Note: Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage.

Producers who have a 2016 NAP policy will need to provide our office with current, signed copies of the following:

- BLM grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- Forest Service grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- State land lease and State land subleases
- Private Leases

USDA Expands Microloans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the microloan program to better serve the financial operating needs of smaller farming operations. Microloans offer more flexible access to credit and serve as an attractive loan alternative for small to mid-size farms, including non-traditional farm operations, which often face limited financing options.

Since 2013 Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents; marketing and distribution expenses; family living expenses; purchase of livestock, equipment, fencing and other materials essential to farm operations; minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers; and hoop houses to extend the growing season.

Now microloans will be available to also help with farm ownership. Access to land is one of the biggest challenges in establishing and growing a small farming operation. The expanded microloan program provides low-interest loans to help farmers and ranchers with the purchase of a farm or farm land, enlarging an existing farm, constructing new farm buildings, improving existing farm buildings, paying closing costs and implementing soil and water conservation improvements.

The application process for the new microloans is simpler, requires less paperwork to complete and requirements have been modified to help accommodate veterans, smaller farm operations and beginning farmers.

Additional information on the FSA microloan program can be obtained at www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans or at local FSA offices. For Sheridan-Johnson county agricultural producers please contact **Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager, at (307) 682-8843.**

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