

March 2016



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## Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Updates

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- [The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#)
- [USDA Rural Development Has Funding Assistance Available For Agricultural Producers](#)
- [USDA Expands Microloans](#)

### Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office

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**County Committee:**  
Steve Schuette  
John Buyok  
Susan Moyes  
Thad Stoltz  
Raymon Turk

**Next County Committee Meeting:** April 13, 2016

### 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.

#### Attention Producers — — —

**Signup Deadline is fast approaching!**

**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.

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## USDA Rural Development Has Funding Assistance Available For Agricultural Producers

The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program has Planning and Working Capital grants to help agricultural producers enter into

value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products.

VAPG provides funds for economic planning activities or eligible working capital expenses to enable viable Agricultural Producers to develop businesses that produce and market Value-Added Agricultural Products and to create marketing opportunities for such businesses.

Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the goals of this program.

## Attention Producers — Free Workshop!

Rural Development is sponsoring a free workshop to provide information about this program on **April 28, 2016, 4:00 – 6:00 pm in the 2nd floor conference room at the Cottonwood Center in Sheridan; 1949 Sugarland Drive.**

### Your VAPG Contact in Wyoming is:

Debra L. Anderson  
Area Specialist | Energy Coordinator  
1949 Sugarland Dr., Ste. 118  
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## USDA Expands Microloans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the microloan program to better serve the financial operating needs of small to mid-size farming operations. Since 2013 USDA 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. 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](http://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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