

June 2016



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Sweetwater/Sublette/Uinta County FSA Updates

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County Executive Director:
Jennifer Dutton

Program Technicians:
Bonnie Hueckstaedt
Teresa Wisniewski
Ashley Simpson

Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Harrell

Farm Loan Technician:
Carol Zogata

County Committee:
Shirley DeLambert (SWT)
Bob Slagowski (SWT)
Pete Arambel (SUB)
Penny Chrisman (SUB)
Wes Lupher (UIN)
Kirk Eyre (UIN)
Vance Broadbent (UIN)
L'Nette Iorg (UIN)

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

2016 SPRING CROP REPORTING & ARC/PLC APPOINTMENTS

Crop reporting deadline for spring planted crops and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is July 15, 2016 for the 2016 crop year. Crop reports (FSA-578) must account for all acres operated by a producer and is required for participation in most FSA programs.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program (ARC/PLC) enrollment period ends August 1, 2016 for the 2016 crop year. Failure to complete the annual enrollment will result in not being eligible for potential payments in 2016. Farmers are encouraged to bring copies of new leases.

We held an appointment day in Farson on June 8, 2016 to complete spring crop reporting and signup for 2016 ARC/PLC. If you did not receive an appointment card and believe you should have, please contact the office to make an appointment.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered death losses in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather conditions or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or are protected by federal law. LIP payments are equal to 75% of the market value (as determined by the Secretary).

What do I need to apply?

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that died including, but not limited to, pictures, purchase records, vet records, bank/loan documents, contracts, tax documents, insurance documents etc.
- Documentation of inventory numbers prior to the losses and ending inventory numbers by livestock type.

When Can I apply?

For years 2015 and subsequent, file a notice of loss no more than 30 days after loss is apparent. Application for payment and supporting documentation must be filed by January 30 of the following calendar year.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides up to \$20 million per fiscal year for emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. ELAP covers losses due to eligible adverse weather conditions. ELAP covers losses that are not otherwise covered by LFP or LIP.

Eligible livestock losses that may be covered by ELAP include

- Livestock death losses
- Grazing losses
- Feed losses – of purchased feed, harvested feed, additional costs to transport feed to livestock, purchase of additional feed during eligible weather condition
- Water hauling

When Can I apply?

For years 2015 and subsequent, file a notice of loss no more than 30 days after loss is apparent. Application for payment and supporting documentation must be filed by November 1 after the program year that the loss occurred.

2016 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

County Committees provide a grassroots approach to how FSA conducts business. Committees are elected by peers in the agricultural community. Successful candidates are charged with representing producers' interests from their Local Administrative Area (LAA). County Committees are an integral part to keeping decisions affecting FSA programs as local as possible.

Sweetwater County has one position up for election this year (LAA 1-2) as shown on the map below. The position is currently represented by Shirley DeLambert of Eden, WY.

Uinta County has one position up for election this year (LAA 1-3) as shown on the map below. The position is currently represented by Kirk Eyre of Lyman, WY.

Election Dates to Remember

June 15, 2016 – Informational postcards will be mailed to producers in LAAs holding elections.

August 1, 2016 – Final date for nominations to be received by the County Office (or postmarked)

November 7, 2016 – Ballots mailed to voters in LAAs holding elections

December 5, 2016 – Final date for ballots to be received by the County Office (or postmarked)

USDA EXPANDS MICROLOANS

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary the week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to help with farm land and building purchases and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from USDA-FSA.

To learn more about the microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans or contact the Fremont County FSA office.

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).