



NEWSLETTER



Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA

208 Shiloh RD, Worland, WY 82401

JANUARY 2016

Phone: 307-347-2456

FAX: 1-855-415-3445

Next meeting:
February 9th, 2016

Staff:

Lisa Bower, CED Trainee
Bill Morrison, FLM
Teresa Shelton, PT
Tracy Neidig, PT

County Committee:

David Slover, Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Vice-Chairperson
Julie Haun, Member
Everett Jones, Member
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

Election Results

Congratulations to Dave Slover. Dave was elected to serve a second 3-year term as representative for LAA#1.

Congratulations, to Everett Jones who was elected to serve a second 3-year term as representative for LAA#5. Jack Baird will serve as an alternate if Everett is unable to attend the meetings.

Thank you Dave, Everett, Jack and to the producers who participated by voting for your area representatives.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program Coverage for Livestock & Honeybees (Excluding Farm-Raised Fish)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (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, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

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 eligible 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 to September 30, 2016 must file a notice of loss at your county office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) Program

Signup for the program starts December 7 and runs through **August 1, 2016**. It is your responsibility to enroll your farm each year (2016, 2017 and 2018) during the signup period.

For those of you who plant annual crops in 2016 your signup/enrollment options are:

1. Enroll your farm during the April to July 2016 spring crop reporting period
2. Visit our office between now and August 1 to enroll your farm(s) in ARC/PLC.

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.

Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by crop losses due to natural disasters. FSA's NAP coverage is for non-insurable crops not covered by RMA. This includes rangeland coverage. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

*****These fees can be waived for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmer or ranchers.***

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.

Remember, the **deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016.**

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.

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 grower's contracts; proof of normal mortality documentation; file a Notice of Loss; sign an Application for Payment by 1/30/17.

Changing How Your Agriculture Operation Conducts Business Can Adversely Affect Existing Farm Loan Program Customers

FSA needs the help of our customers, accountants, attorneys and our lending partners. When you (or your customers) participate in FSA programs, particularly the loan programs (FSA direct and guarantee loans) it is important to notify FSA as early in the process as possible when considering a change in business structure. Some changes of concern are type of operation (partnership, trust, LLC), new EIN, adding new members, etc. Some changes (especially for existing loan customers can affect eligibility, security instruments and other program areas. While changing the manner in which a customer does business may be legal, allowed by the IRS and perhaps more easily rectified in a bank, those changes may make a customer ineligible for FSA loans they currently hold, future loans, servicing of existing loans, or risk management and other program payments.

If you are a FSA customer or you are advising FSA loan customers and are considering changing the manner in which business is conducted, please contact the local FSA loan official prior to making the proposed changes. Time gives us an opportunity to work with the customer to try to keep them eligible for all services we can provide. For existing customers, proactive handling is our best ally.

Changing the form of doing business takes deliberation and preparation. We want to be involved at the beginning of the process so we can provide FSA program guidance to retain customer eligibility and access to FSA programs.

FLP program access that can be affected with certain changes (if prior approval not obtained from FSA)

- Ineligibility for new loans or servicing.
- Can be perceived as conversion (security asset transfer or marketing security production under another name).
- Can be perceived as non-monetary default regarding program requirements or failure to keep loan agreements.
- If additional parties have been added may permanently affect eligibility.

The critical factor is to process the resolution as quickly as possible to avoid opportunity for non-monetary default or ineligibility.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Farm Service Agency continues to administer the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. Basic provisions are as follows:

- Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment, drying equipment, forage storage structures or cold storage for fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7, 10 or 12 years.
- The interest rates for January, 2016 are 2.00% for a 7 year loan, 2.25% for a 10 year loan and 2.3755 for a 12 year loan (rates change every month).
- Participants are required to carry crop insurance on crops of economic significance for the term of the loan.

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office
 208 Shiloh RD
 Worland, WY 82401



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Farm Service Agency
 PERMIT # G-96

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:	
George Washington Birthday – OFFICE CLOSED	February 16, 2016
Purchase NAP Policy (Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program)	April 1, 2016
Enroll FOR ARC/PLC (Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage)	Now through August 1, 2016
Notice of Loss for ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program)	30 days from the date the loss of feed or grazing became apparent
Notice of Loss for LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program)	30 days from the date the loss of livestock became apparent
Apply for a Farm Storage Facility Loan or Apply for a Farm Loan	Anytime
Office Hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you in a timely manner.	Selected Interest Rates for January 2016: Farm Operating Loan – Direct - 2.625% Farm Ownership Loan – Direct - 3.875% Farm Ownership – Down Payment – 1.50% Farm Ownership – Joint Financing – 2.50% Farm Storage Facility Loans for January 2016: Grain Bins – 7 year term - 2.00%

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)

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact Washakie-Hot Springs County Office at 307-347-2456 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.