

June 2018



Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#).

- [Message from the CED](#)
- [USDA Reopens Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters](#)
- [Using FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loans for Construction](#)

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

**Washakie-Hot
Springs County FSA Office**

208 Shiloh Rd
Worland, WY 82401

Phone: 307-347-2456
Fax: 855-415-3445

County Executive Director:
Lisa Bower

Farm Loan Manager:
Bill Morrison

Program Technicians:
Teresa Shelton
Tracy Neidig

County Committee:
Arnold Pennoyer, Chairperson
Julie Haun, Vice-Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Member
Everett Jones, Member

**Next County Committee
Meeting:** TBD

Message from the CED

Hello Washakie and Hot Springs County Producers.

The nomination period for the 2018 County Committee Election begins June 15, 2018 and ends August 1, 2018.

If you are a producer interested in serving on the Washakie-Hot Springs County Committee, please note that the following areas are accepting nominations.

LAA #1 – Washakie County – everything west of the Big Horn River
LAA #5 – Hot Springs County – everything east of the Big Horn River, plus those west of the river that get their irrigation water from the river

Interested producers must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. All nomination forms must be postmarked or received at the local FSA Office by August 1, 2018. Please contact this office if you have any questions.

Important dates to remember:

July 4, 2018	Independence Day Holiday – Service Center closed
July 11, 2018 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Cookie/Tea - discussing Livestock Disaster programs at the Hot Springs County Library
July 15, 2018	Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline
Aug 1, 2018	ARC/PLC Sign-up Deadline
Aug 29, 2018	Women's Ag Expo at the Washakie County Fairgrounds

Reminder: File Notifications of Loss for Crops and/or Livestock within 15 Days of the Loss Event. Best wishes for a profitable and safe summer!

USDA Reopens Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters

Signup Begins June 4 for Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin accepting disaster assistance program applications on June 4 from agricultural producers who suffered livestock, honeybees, farm-raised fish and other losses due to natural disasters.

USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) is reopening the application period for two disaster assistance programs in response to statutory changes made by Congress earlier this year.

Beginning June 4, FSA will accept new applications for losses for calendar year 2017 or 2018 filed under the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) or [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP). Producers who already submitted applications and received decisions on their applications for these years do not need to file again, but they can reapply if they have additional losses or their application was disapproved because it was filed late.

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which made several changes to these two disaster programs, including:

- Removing ELAP's \$20 million fiscal year funding cap, enabling FSA to pay producers' 2017 applications in full and their 2018 applications as soon as they are approved.
- Removing the per-person and legal entity annual program payment limitation of \$125,000 for LIP for 2017 and future years. (The income limitation applies as it did before, meaning producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$900,000 are not eligible.)
- Changing LIP to allow producers to receive a payment for injured livestock that are sold for a reduced price due to an eligible event. Previously, the program only covered financial loss for livestock death above normal mortality.

Producers interested in LIP or ELAP should contact their [local USDA service center](#). To apply, producers will need to provide verifiable and reliable production records and other information about their operation.

Drought, wildfires and other disasters continue to impact farmers and ranchers, and LIP and ELAP are two of many programs available through USDA to help producers recover. Learn more at <https://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

Using FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loans for Construction

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Amongst other purposes, Direct Farm Ownership Loans can be used to construct, purchase or improve farm dwellings, service buildings or other facilities and improvements essential to an operation.

To do this, applicants must provide FSA with an estimate of the total cost of all planned development that completely describe the work, prior to loan approval and must show proof of sufficient funds to pay for the total cost of all planned development at or before loan closing. In some instances, applicants may be asked to provide certified plans, specifications or contract documents. The applicant cannot incur any debts for

materials or labor or make any expenditures for development purposes prior to loan closing with the expectation of being reimbursed from FSA funds.

Construction and development work may be performed either by the contract method or the borrower method. Under the contract method, construction and development contractors perform work according to a written contract with the applicant or borrower. An applicant for a direct loan to finance a construction project must obtain a surety bond that guarantees both payment and performance in the amount of the construction contract from a construction contractor.

A surety bond is required when a contract exceeds \$100,000, an authorized agency official determines that a surety bond appears advisable to protect the borrower against default of the contractor or a contract provides for partial payments in excess of the amount of 60 percent of the value of the work in place.

Under the borrower method, the applicant or borrower will perform the construction and development work. The borrower method may only be used when the authorized agency official determines, based on information from the applicant, that the applicant possesses or arranges to obtain the necessary skill and managerial ability to complete the work satisfactorily and that such work will not interfere with the applicant's farming operation or work schedule.

Potential applicants should visit with FSA early in the initial project planning process to ensure environmental compliance.

For more eligibility requirements and information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Lisa Bower at 307-347-2456 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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 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).