

July 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 Offers Help to Fire-Affected Farmers and Ranchers in Washakie County](#)
- [How to Document Wildfire Losses](#)
- [USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property](#)

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

As rangeland fire is a topic of discussion in the area at this time, please read the article discussing the Livestock Forage Programs potential benefits on federal land affected by fire.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 1, 2018 – ARC/PLC Sign-up Deadline
Aug. 1, 2018 – Deadline to Nominate a Candidate for the 2018 COC Election
Sept. 3, 2018 – County Office Closed – Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 15, 2018 – Deadline to Complete Fall Acreage Reports
Nov. 15, 2018 – Deadline to submit 2018 Production Reports for NAP
Dec. 1, 2018 – Purchase deadline for 2019 NAP Coverage

Hope your summer is very successful,

Lisa Bower

USDA Offers Help to Fire-Affected Farmers and Ranchers in Washakie County

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) Farm Service Agency's (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers affected by the recent wildfires in Washakie County that disaster assistance programs are available to support their recovery efforts.

The [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) can assist farmers and ranchers who lost livestock, grazing land, fences or eligible trees, bushes and vines as a result of a natural disaster. FSA administers a suite of safety-net programs to help producers recover from eligible losses, including the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#), the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#), and the [Tree Assistance Program](#).

In addition, the FSA [Emergency Conservation Program](#) provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Producers located in counties that receive a primary or contiguous disaster designation are eligible for low-interest [emergency loans](#) to help them recover from production and physical losses. Compensation is also available to producers who purchased coverage through the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#), which protects non-insurable crops (including native grass for grazing) against natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses or prevented planting.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Center go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

How to Document Wildfire Losses

Producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to recent wildfires may be eligible for disaster assistance programs through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.

To participate in LIP, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. To participate in ELAP, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock losses due to the eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
- Rendering truck receipts by kind, type and weight - important to document prior to disposal;
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Documentation from Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Natural Resources, or other sources to substantiate eligible death losses due to an eligible loss condition;
- Documentation that livestock were removed from grazing pastures due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition;
- Costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, such as receipts for equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal;
- Feed purchase receipts if feed supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed;
- Number of gallons of water transported to livestock due to water shortages.

For more information on these programs and documentation requirements, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster or contact your local FSA office.

USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program 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 also 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 the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Lisa Bower](mailto:Lisa.Bower@aphis.usda.gov) at [307-347-2456](tel: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).