

September 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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- [Message from the County Executive Director](#)
- [USDA to Provide Additional Direct Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Coronavirus](#)
- [Drought Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses \(LFP\)](#)
- [Fremont County is Eligible for Emergency Loans](#)

## Fremont County FSA Updates

### Fremont County Farm Service Agency

508 N. Broadway Ave.  
Riverton, Wyoming 82501

Phone: 307-856-7524 Fax:  
855-415-3439

**County Executive Director:**  
Brian Harrell, Acting

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Harrell

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Mercedes Jauregui Guadron

**Program Technicians:**  
Carol Zogata  
Tracy Givens  
Becky Walters

### Message from the County Executive Director

Fremont County FSA is pleased to announce two new-hired Program Technicians (PT's) for the Farm Programs:

Becky Walters was recently hired as a temporary PT in Riverton. Some of you may remember Becky from her prior experience with FSA in 2007-2008. Becky was born and raised on farming and ranching operations in the Riverton area. Becky along with her husband Harley and daughter Elie operate a farm and cow/calf operation here in Fremont County. She has a career background in agriculture business administration and accounting.

Tracy Givens is our newest PT in the Riverton office. She is the wife of Ronnie Givens, one of our State Board members, mother of 2, Stepmother of 4 and grandmother of 9. Together Ronnie and Tracy run a 250 head cow/calf and 100 head replacement bred cow operation that includes farming alfalfa and grass hay. Tracy has a career background in finance and travel, as well as other customer service industries. When time is made for fun, you can find Tracy at a local barrel race.

**County Committee:**

Jim Hellyer - Chairman  
Stan Horton - Vice- Chairman  
Will O'Neal - Member

**Next County Committee Meeting: TBA**

USDA has designated Fremont County as a primary natural disaster area. If you need to haul livestock water please let us know as soon as possible as we have the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#) that can help with cost share assistance. Also if you have a NAP policy make sure you have completed a notice of loss if you are experiencing drought conditions. Please see the below [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#) if you have suffered a loss of grazed forage for covered livestock.

If you need assistance, please call ahead for an appointment to ensure we provide the safest and most professional service possible. Thanks for all that you do!

-Brian Harrell-

## USDA to Provide Additional Direct Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Coronavirus

USDA announced up to an additional \$14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin September 21 and run through December 11, 2020.

**Background:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

**Price Trigger Commodities** Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline over a specified period of time. Eligible price trigger crops include barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton, and all classes of wheat. Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop, excluding prevented planting and experimental acres. Payments for price trigger crops will be the greater of: 1) the eligible acres multiplied by a payment rate of \$15 per acre; or 2) the eligible acres multiplied by a nationwide crop marketing percentage, multiplied by a crop-specific payment rate, and then by the producer's weighted 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. If the APH is not available, 85 percent of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield for that crop will be used.

For broilers and eggs, payments will be based on 75 percent of the producers' 2019 production.

Dairy (cow's milk) payments will be based on actual milk production from April 1 to Aug. 31, 2020. The milk production for Sept. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020, will be estimated by FSA.

Eligible beef cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020.

**Flat-rate Crops** Crops that either do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre. These crops include alfalfa, extra long staple (ELS) cotton, oats, peanuts, rice, hemp, millet, mustard, safflower, sesame, triticale, rapeseed, and several others.

**Sales Commodities** Sales commodities include specialty crops; aquaculture; nursery crops and floriculture; other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories, including tobacco; goat milk; mink (including pelts); mohair; wool; and other livestock (excluding breeding stock) not included under the price trigger category that were grown for food, fiber, fur, or feathers. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP 2 that weren't eligible in the first iteration of the program. If your agricultural operation has been impacted by the pandemic since April 2020, we encourage you to apply for CFAP 2. A complete list of eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

**Eligibility** There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2.

Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

**Applying for Assistance** Producers can apply for assistance beginning Sept. 21, 2020. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 11, 2020.

Additional information and application forms can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](https://farmers.gov/cfap/apply). For existing FSA customers, including those who participated in CFAP 1, many documents are likely already on file. Producers should check with FSA county office to see if any of the forms need to be updated.

Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-

screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in the office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

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## Drought Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses (LFP)

Producers in Fremont County are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on the following crops reported as intended use for grazing: small grain, native pasture, improved pasture, annual ryegrass, forage sorghum.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than **February 1, 2021**, for 2020 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Fremont County USDA Service Center at 307-856-7524 ext.2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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## Fremont County is Eligible for Emergency Loans

On September 8, 2020 the USDA declared Fremont County as a primary disaster area due to drought conditions. Under this designation, if you have operations in any primary or contiguous county, you are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

Emergency loans help you recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

You have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. You can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, contact your Fremont County USDA Service Center at (307) 856-7524 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Brian Harrell at (307)856-7524 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).