

August 2020



**Natrona/Converse
County Farm Service
Agency:**

5880 Enterprise Drive,
Ste. 100
Casper, WY 82609

Phone: 307-261-5436,
ext. 2

Fax: 855-415-3428

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.

**County Executive
Director:**

Deena R. McDaniels
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Program Technician:

Wanda McLean
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Farm Loan Manager:

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County Committee:

Kem Nicolaysen,
Chairman
Josh Moore, Vice-
Chairman
Lee Moore, Member
Heather Harlan, Mem-
ber
William Kossert, Mem-
ber

**Next Committee
Meeting:**

August 25, 2020

It's the dog days of summer out there!

A lot has happened since our first newsletter in March! I want to personally thank all of you for your patience and cooperation over the last many months as we traverse these new and different ways of doing business. You all have made it possible for us to process over \$3 million dollars in Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) funding through Natrona and Converse Counties. That is money back into your pockets and into the local economy. The deadline to sign up for CFAP is August 28th so if you have not done so yet, please contact our office for the details.

As you all know, it is shaping up to be a really dry year. I want to talk here about the Drought Monitor, the Livestock Forage Program and NAP.

Natrona County has reached D3 Extreme Drought in drought status on the Drought Monitor. This means that we will begin to take appointments to sign up for the Livestock Forage Program. Converse is in week 4 of D2. Converse will need to be in D2 for 8 consecutive weeks to qualify. If everything stays as is, that will be the first week of September. If Converse goes to D3 in severity, we will begin making appointments with Converse producers also.

To report drought conditions at your location, please go to the following link:

<https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>

Due to the Coronavirus, our office is in Phase 3 re-opening status. That means we are closed to the public without an appointment. Please call to make an appointment at 307-261-5436, ext 2.

Wanda and I are fortunate enough to have a full-time temporary staff person working in our office. Her name is Jessica Caves and she will be doing most of the scheduling.

All producers applying for the Livestock Forage Program must have established farm records, a timely filed acreage report, payment eligibility documentation and any additional documentation as requested by the County Committee. Eligible livestock are livestock owned, leased or purchased livestock, 60 calendar days before the beginning day of the qualifying event. Natrona has qualified on July 28, 2020.

Please continue to call with your Notices of Loss for drought under NAP if you feel the situation warrants. Our Independent Assessors are monitoring the situation. They will report to the County Committee with their recommendations for grazing loss percentages at the end of the grazing period. That will be September 30 for Converse and October 15 for Natrona.

We are handling a high volume of work in our office right now. Thank you in advance for your continued patience and cooperation as we work to serve the producers of Natrona and Converse Counties.

As always, if you need anything, we are but a phone call away!

Sincerely,

Deena R. McDaniels

County Executive Director

Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including excessive wind and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2020 crops. [A notice of loss must be filed](#) the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Acreage Reports

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

Eligibility for Elections for the 2020 County Committee

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2020 election in Natrona County will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA 3): South of BN Railroad and the Kendrick project. Converse County will be conducted for the LAA 4 north of I-25.

To be eligible to vote in the elections, a person must:

Meet requirement one (see explanation below) **or** meet requirement two, **and** requirement three (see explanation below).

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 2, 2020. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA service center is Dec. 7, 2020.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Requirement One:

Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either: an individual who meets one or more of the following; (a) is eligible to vote in one's own right, (b) is a partner of a general partnership, (c) is a member of a joint venture **OR** an authorized representative of a legal entity, such as: (a) a corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership or other business enterprise, excluding general partnership and joint ventures or (b) a state, political subdivision of a state or any state agency (only the designated representative may cast a vote for the entity).

Requirement Two:

Not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.

Requirement Three:

Participates or cooperates in an FSA program that is provided by law.

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2020 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Natrona are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native pasture, improved pasture and forage sorghum. Our office is closed to the public due to the coronavirus, please call the office for an appointment, 307-261-5436, extension 2.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who 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.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC -853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2021, for 2020 losses.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

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 wild-fires, 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. For honeybee losses, producers must notify FSA within 15 calendar days of when a loss occurs or from when the loss is apparent.

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 during calendar year 2020, must file:

- A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent (15 days for honeybee losses)

An application for payment by Feb. 1, 2021

The following ELAP Fact Sheets (by topic) are available online:

[ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet](#)

[ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet](#)

[ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet](#)

To view these and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

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).

**USDA Farm Service Agency
Natrona/Converse CO FSA
5880 Enterprise Drive
Suite 100
Casper, WY 82609**

Upcoming Deadlines

CFAP:

- Applications must be in by August 28, 2020.

NAP:

- December 1 – All perennial grasses, alfalfa, clover, mixed forage, and honey
- March 15 – Hemp
- April 1 – All spring seeded crops
- Within 15 days of crop loss – Submit Notice of Loss
- November 15 (varies by crop) – Final day to submit Application for Payment

LFP:

- Within 30 days after the end of the year in which the grazing loss occurred – submit Application for Payment and supporting documentation. (January 30, 2021)

LIP:

- Within 30 days of noticing Livestock loss or injury – Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss or injury occurred– Submit Application for Payment

ELAP:

- Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather – Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss occurred– Submit Application for Payment