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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Niobrara County FSA Updates

Niobrara County FSA Office

905 South Main Street
PO Box 720
Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-2953, Ext. 2
Fax: (855) 415-3433

County Executive

Director:

Laura Kessler

Program Technician:

Kimberly Nusbaum

Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount
(307) 322-4050

County Committee:

Jason ZumBrunnen

Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

We hope everyone is enjoying the new year! We just want to remind everyone of a few items and deadlines.

We are currently taking applications for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign up that will end February 28th.

March 2nd is also the last day to file an application for payment for those of you who claimed livestock losses in 2019 under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Our weather has seemed to ease up a bit but just in case it changes, please remember to file a notice of loss (NOL) when you lose livestock to adverse weather. NOL must be filed within 30 days of when it becomes apparent to you that you had a loss.

March 16th is also the final deadline to file your Agricultural Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) and Price Loss coverage (PLC) election and contract for the 2019 crop year. Please make sure you file your ARC/PLC election on time. There will be no default elections this farm bill.

We also want to invite everyone to our series of informational program workshops that we will conduct this year. We will hold Wednesday Workshops most months about different topics. Next month on February 19th

Joe Kruse
Kurt Gaukel

at 1:00 p.m. at the office, we will discuss the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). We hope those of you who have interest in the program will join us.

Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:
February 20, 2020

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

February 17, 2020 – OFFICE CLOSED – President’s Day

February 19, 2020 – Workshop Wednesday – 1:00 PM – Livestock Indemnity Program

Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing livestock loss – File LIP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather – File ELAP Notice of Loss

Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease 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 in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2020 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower’s contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Livestock Inventory Records

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, 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. For grazing or feed losses, 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 inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.

Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Laura Kessler](#) at [307-334-2953](#) 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).