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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Updates

**Sheridan~Johnson
County Farm Service
Agency**

1949 Sugarland Drive, Ste
126
Sheridan, WY 82801

Phone: 307-683-4202
Fax: 866-574-1670

County Executive Director:
Linda Benzel

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner
(307) 682-8843 ext 2
rob.weppner@usda.gov

Program Technicians:
Justine Scheeler
Staci L. Steiner

County Committee:

From the Desk of Linda Benzel, CED

Hello Producers,

We are starting the sign-up for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). This drought program is for livestock owners who have a loss on the non-irrigated grazing acres. If you are interested in applying, please give our office a call to schedule an appointment.

The inventory will be as of July 21, 2020. **Please note:** *Un-weaned livestock will not be included in this program.* It will take us several months to process all the potential applications. The deadline date is February 1, 2021 to apply and provide all required documentation. Please refer below to the LFP Article.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) deadline has been extended to Friday, **September 11, 2020**. If you still need to get yours filed, please call and make your appointment asap.

We look forward to serving you.

Best Regards,

Raymon Turk, Chairman
John Buyok, Vice Chairman
Ray Daly, Member
Gerry Miller, Member
Thad Stoltz, Member
Susan Moyes, SD Advisor

Linda

<https://www.usda.gov/tellsonny> Tell Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue about your experience with FSA or NRCS.~

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Sheridan and Johnson Counties are eligible to apply for **2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** benefits on native and/or improved pasture due to D3, extreme drought intensity as per the U.S. Drought Monitor.

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. Eligible livestock are grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of forage grasses or legumes.

Eligible Livestock must:

- Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date (**beginning inventory date is July 21, 2020**) of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show); and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner or contract grower.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to payment factors of one, three, four or five times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to *60 percent of the lesser* of either the monthly feed cost:

- For all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer; or
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than February 1, 2021, for 2020 losses. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss and that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock, contact the **Sheridan~Johnson** County USDA Service Center at **307-683-4202** or visit fsa.usda.gov.

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) can 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.

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.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a joint financing loan is \$600,000, and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

The operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about farm loans, contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Linda Benzel at 307-683-4202 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).