



AUGUST 2020

**Sheridan ~ Johnson County
FSA Office**

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FSA Office Personnel:

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County Committee Members:

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

Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner
307-682-8843 ext. 2
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A Minute With Linda...

Ranchers and farmers continue to suffer the effects of this 2020 drought. Please know we are hard at work implementing the programs available to our producers.

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) has triggered due to the US Drought Monitor. Refer to the article below for the details and deadlines. We will be setting up appointments mid-September. As in the past, documentation will be required for the claimed livestock and grazing land. Also, be mindful this program is by physical location of the rangeland. Some of you may require multi-county applications; again, documentation will need to be separated for each county.

Several producers have called our office requesting emergency stock water and filing a notice of loss for water hauling. If you need stock water to utilize your available pastures, please give us a call. There may be a program available to offset the cost. If you suffered damage to fencing due to wildfires this year, give our office a call. There may be assistance for cost-share on replacing and repairing fence.

We look forward to serving you.

Best Regards,
Linda Benzel, CED

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

FSA will accept applications **through September 11, 2020**. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion in financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

This extension comes as additional crops and livestock have been added to the eligible commodities for CFAP. All sheep are now considered eligible livestock, for example.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help producers identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments. Producers self-certify their records when applying for CFAP and that documentation is not submitted with the application. However, producers may be asked for their documentation to support the certification of eligible commodities, so producers should retain the information used to complete their application.

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to our office.

Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

Banking information changes should be reported as well.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

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 January 30, 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.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Online Hay and Grazing Acres Locator Tool

FSA's **Hay Net** website www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet is the "go to" online resource for agriculture producers to list information concerning the need for hay and grazing acres or the availability of hay and grazing acres.

If, due to extenuating circumstances, producers are in need of hay and /or grazing acres to support livestock, please use **Hay Net** to post an advertisement seeking these resources. Likewise, landowners who have hay and/or grazing acres available for livestock producers should post a Hay Net advertisement as well.

A few things to remember when using the **Hay Net** website:

- There is a one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online.
- Users who just want to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user id.
- Hay and grazing acre ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.
- Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date and remove ads you no longer need or want advertised on **Hay Net**. Please, no corporate advertisements on this site.

Hay Net is brought to you by FSA as a public service. The sole purpose of this online resource is to provide a site for the exchange of information. FSA does not endorse, guarantee, or otherwise make representations of any kind regarding any user of this site and FSA is not responsible for defining the terms of grazing agreements or lease contracts.

For more information about **Hay Net** and other FSA services and programs, please contact your local FSA office. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: offices.usda.gov.

ELAP Covers Losses from Additional Cost of Transporting Water to Livestock

Assistance is available to livestock producers through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) for producers who have incurred additional operating costs for transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought.

An eligible drought means that part or all of a county is designated D3 (extreme drought) or higher as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). Producers must file a notice of loss on form CCC-851 the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer. Additionally, the deadline to submit an application for payment for 2020 ELAP assistance is January 30, 2021.

To qualify for ELAP, eligible livestock must be: adult or non-adult dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo and beefalo, as well as alpacas, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer, or sheep.

Additionally, the livestock must have been owned 60 calendar days prior to the beginning of the drought and be physically located in the county designated as a disaster area due to drought. Adequate livestock watering systems or facilities must have existed before the drought occurred and producers are only eligible if they do not normally transport water to the livestock.

Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot are not eligible for transporting water. ELAP covers the additional cost of transporting water and does not cover the cost of the water itself.

Producers will have to provide documentation to FSA that shows the method used to transport the water, the number of gallons of water transported and the number of eligible livestock to which water was transported.

Livestock producers should contact FSA to make an appointment to sign up for ELAP and to learn more about eligibility, application and documentation requirements.

Livestock Inventory Records

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

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.

Filing CCC-941

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. No program payment can be issued to an eligible producer, including landowners who share in the crop, without a valid CCC-941 on file in the county office.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 on file for the applicable crop year will not receive payments. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.



USDA Farm Service Agency
Sheridan ~ Johnson Counties Office
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

Important FSA Dates and Deadlines

- ◆ **September 7, 2020 – Labor Day – Office CLOSED**
- ◆ **September 11, 2020 – CFAP Application Deadline**
- ◆ **October 12, 2020 – Columbus Day – Office CLOSED**

Next COC Meeting: TBD

ADDITIONAL OFFICE INFO

Johnson County Office Day

Temporarily Suspended Due to COVID-19
Buffalo USDA Service Center
500 Lott St., Unit A
Buffalo, WY 82834
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 3

The Sheridan FSA Office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm, closed from noon to 1pm

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).