

SEPTEMBER 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Updates

Sheridan~Johnson Co Farm Service Agency **From the Desk of Linda Benzel, CED**

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Hello Producers,

As we welcome Fall with the turning of the leaves, cooler temperatures, and preparations for shipping livestock; we also have several programs available for signup.

The Sheridan~Johnson County FSA office is currently taking appointments for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) due to drought conditions in our two counties. This program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and who are also producers of eligible grazing forage acreage (native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing.)

Eligible livestock for LFP are grazing animals that include, but are not limited to, beef cattle, dairy cattle, equine, goats, and sheep that are or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land. Unweaned livestock are not eligible for LFP.

In addition to LFP, USDA is providing critical support to our nation's farmers and ranchers through the Coronavirus Food

County Committee:

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

Assistance Program (CFAP 2). CFAP 2 provides vital financial assistance to agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. FSA is accepting applications for CFAP 2 from September 21, 2020, to December 11, 2020.

For a list of all eligible commodities, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

Next County Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

FSA staff at your Sheridan County USDA Service Center will work with producers to file applications. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. Please call your office prior to sending applications electronically. The CFAP 2 application and associated forms are available online at farmers.gov/cfap. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

Best Regards,

Linda

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

Sheridan~Johnson County Farm Service Agency is Accepting Emergency Conservation Program Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Sheridan & Johnson County is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to address damages from fires and drought. ECP signup will begin on October 1, 2020, and end on October 30, 2020.

The approved ECP practices under this authorization include:

- Johnson County ONLY – Fencing due to Fire Damage
- Johnson County and Sheridan County – Well drilling, water tanks, spring development, pipeline due to Drought.

ECP assists producers with the recovery cost to restore the farmland to pre-disaster conditions. Approved ECP applicants may receive up to 75 percent of the cost of approved restoration activity. Limited resource, socially disadvantaged (excluding gender), and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive up to 90 percent cost-share. A 25 percent advance payment will be allowed for repair or replacement of fencing.

Producers with damage from such events must apply for assistance prior to beginning reconstructive work. FSA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental

compliance review process is required to be completed before any actions are taken. Submitting an application after reconstructive work has been completed may not qualify for ECP.

FSA county committees will evaluate applications based on an on-site inspection of the damaged land, taking into consideration the type and extent of the damage. An on-site inspection does not guarantee that cost-share funding will be provided.

The 2018 Farm Bill increased the payment limitation for ECP to \$500,000 per disaster. The use of ECP funds is limited to activities to return the land to the relative pre-disaster condition. Conservation concerns that were present on the land prior to the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance.

For more information on ECP, please contact the Sheridan~Johnson County FSA office at 307-683-4202 or visit farmers.gov/recover.

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 holder's 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 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).