

January 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [From Jen's Desk](#)
- [USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment for 2019 and 2020](#)
- [Livestock Losses](#)
- [Direct Loans](#)

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## Sweetwater/Sublette-Uinta County FSA Updates

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### Sweetwater/Sublette-Uinta FSA Office

79 Winston Dr. Ste. 110  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Phone: 307.362.3062 x2  
Fax: 855.415.3440

100 E. Sage  
PO Box 1529  
Lyman, WY 82937

Phone: 307.787.3859 x2  
Fax: 855.415.3435

**County Executive Director:**  
Jennifer Dutton

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Harrell

**Program Technician:**  
Ashley Simpson (UIN)

### From Jen's Desk

*Help us help you!*

A lot has been happening with the 2018 Farm Bill rollout over the last year or so. We're still finding things that have changed on us, so a few reminders to help us better serve you.

- Keep track of weather! Write it down, take pictures and always remember to call us to file a notice of loss if things are looking rough. It takes just a few moments each day but can save us all a bunch of time when it comes time to complete applications for payment.
- Come to your appointments! We try really hard to reduce the number of times you have to come to the office each year, so it's a big deal to miss just 1 appointment. This year, we will be doing annual appointments starting in 2020. They are later than normal because of deadline changes. With changes in the Farm Bill its even more important to make time to see us!

Also the Sweetwater County Conservation District has published two meeting dates that may be of interest. The Wyoming Public Service Commission will be hosting public hearing in City Council Chambers regarding PacifiCorp/Rock Mountain Power Integrated Resource Plan on

Sadie St. Clair (SWT/SUB)

January 28 from 4-7 PM in Kemmerer, 220 State Hwy 233 and on January 29 from 11AM - 2PM in Rock Springs, 212 D Street.

**County Committee:**

Shelby Arambel (SUB)

Dave Pape (SUB)

Bonnie Hueckstaedt (SWT)

Bob Slagowski (SWT)

Carl Hickey (UIN)

Dustin Condos (UIN)

Steve Sims (UIN)

Ashley Anglin (UIN)

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

TBA

Additionally Utah State University and University of Wyoming Extension will be hosting 2020 WY/UT Ag Days on January 27-28 from 10 AM - 3 PM at the Roundhouse in Evanston, WY. Presentation topics include *Culling Livestock, Feed and Minerals, Understanding the Wild Horse Issue, What Influences Bull Cost and What Can I Spend on a Bull?, Weed Management 101, What Your Cows Can Tell You About Your Range, Side x Side Use in Ag, Ranch Horse Care, Hemp 1010, Feed Value Calculator, Forms of Business Ownership, Ranching, There is an App or 2 for That, Strategic Mineral Supplementation for Sheep, Telling Your Story: Social Media, Small Flock Production and Drone Use in Ag*. RSVP to be included in the lunch session and for your plate (307-783-0570).

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## USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment for 2019 and 2020

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2019 and 2020 crop year.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and updated both programs.

Signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020, while signup for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.

ARC and PLC have options for the farm operator who is actively farming the land as well as the owner of the land. Farm owners also have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields beginning with crop year 2020. If the farm owner and producer visit the FSA county office together, FSA can also update yield information during that visit.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

### More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC including two online decision tools that assist producers in making enrollment and election decisions specific to their operations, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#)

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## Livestock Losses

**LIP** - 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. Note: 2019 losses must be filed by March 1, 2020.

**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 wildfires, 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.

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 from Oct. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2019 must file:

- A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent.

- An application for payment by Jan. 30, 2020

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets).

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## Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is \$600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is \$400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Jennifer Dutton at 307-362-3062 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).

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