

July 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

**GovDelivery**

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

- [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#)
- [MAL and LDP Policy](#)
- [USDA Reminds Producers to Complete Acreage Reports](#)
- [New Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation](#)

---

## Sweetwater/Sublette - Uinta County FSA Updates

---

### SWT/SUB-UIN County FSA Office **From Jen's Desk.....**

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

Phone: 307-362-3062  
Fax: 855-415-3440

**Lyman**  
PO Box 1529  
100 East Sage  
Lyman, WY 82937

Phone: 307-787- 3859  
Fax: 855-415-3440

**County Executive Director:**  
**Jennifer Dutton**

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
**Brian Harrell**

Our office is now open to in-person appointments, provided you do not feel ill, been exposed to COVID, or have any symptoms. Please call the office to make an appointment to complete any FSA business if you want to meet in person. We are also still accepting applications by phone, fax, email and pigeon.

We have several deadlines that are approaching that are applicable to ranchers and farmers in our tri-county area. **Annual crop reporting** must be completed no later than August 14, 2020 (this is the extended date). Annual crop reporting is required to maintain eligibility for most FSA programs, including disaster programs. **CFAP (Coronavirus)** if you have sustained a loss due to COVID, please all the office to apply for assistance. The deadline to apply is August 28, 2020. Commodities that are most likely to be eligible in our counties are cattle, sheep, 2019 malt barley, 2019 oats and 2019 wool. Also, please take the time to review basic information about the program at the CFAP website, it contains some pretty useful information to get you started, including forms (all may not be needed), fact sheets, eligible commodities, livestock classes, important dates and payment rates.

[Click HERE for CFAP information](#)

**Wool LDP** can be applied for anytime you choose or when you lose beneficial interest in your wool (ie. sell/deliver etc) Wool LDP rates are currently at \$0.30/pound for ungraded wool. If you have 2020 clip, please contact the office to see if you are eligible to apply for a LDP payment.

**Program Technicians:**  
Ashley Simpson  
Sadie Valdez

**Drought** is upon us in some areas, please contact the office if you are seeing drought having an effect on your operation. Remember to file notice of losses within 15 days, this can be done by email or phone to make it super easy.

**You can call 307-362-3062 (Sweetwater/Sublette) or 307-787- 3859 x2(Uinta) to make an appointment to conduct business by phone.**

---

## Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

### *Online Tools and Toll-Free Number Available to Assist Producers*

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital 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.

We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

### **Applying for Assistance**

Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Those who use the online calculator tool will be able to print off a pre-filled CFAP application, sign, and submit to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery. Please contact your local office to determine the preferred method. Find contact information for your local office at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested after the application is filed. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. More information about this process is available on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

### **More Information**

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) or call 877-508-8364.

---

## MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2019 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please contact your USDA Service Center or FSA's website [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

---

## USDA Reminds Producers to Complete Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers in Sweetwater, Sublette, and Uinta County must complete crop acreage reports by the August 14 deadline. The Month XX deadline applies to list crops.

Due to the pandemic, FSA has implemented acreage reporting flexibilities. To complete your acreage report, please call the Sweetwater/Sublette - Uinta County FSA office to schedule an appointment. FSA can work with producers to file timely acreage reports by phone, email, online tools and virtual meetings as well as by appointment in person.

The County FSA office provided/will provide maps to producers along with instructions for completing and returning the maps through either [mail, email or through commercially available free and secure online tools such as Box for file sharing and OneSpan for eSignature solutions]. After planting is complete, producers must return the signed form certifying their acreage report to the FSA office through [mail, email, or Box] by August 14.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- 
- If a producer has not timely filed an acreage report, the producer may file the acreage report within 30 days of the acreage reporting date. Because of the pandemic, late fees will be waived if filed within the 30 days.
- Applications can also be submitted for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus for 2018 and 2019 as well as other disaster assistance programs that may be able to assist producers at this time.
- When producers are working with FSA staff – either in-person or virtually – they can also take care of applications for other FSA programs, including the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. A CFAP Call Center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The CFAP Call Center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the Call Center staff.
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.
- FSA is also providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events. For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with the reinsurance company but filed a *Notice of Loss* (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. For uninsured crops, producers may start a *Notice of Loss* by calling their FSA county office.

---

## New Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

A new online tool can help farmers and ranchers find information on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA has launched the new *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* as the newest feature on farmers.gov, the Department's self-service website for farmers.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help. Compared to this time last year, FSA has seen an 18 percent increase in the amount it has obligated for direct farm ownership loans, and through the 2018 Farm Bill, has [increased the limits](#) for several loan products.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

### How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will be provided information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting [farmers.gov/fund](https://farmers.gov/fund) and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

---

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Jennifer Dutton](#) at [307-362-3062](tel:307-362-3062) 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).