

August 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County Farm Service Agency

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CED Comments

Greetings:

As the drought situation continues, please report any drought conditions on this website: droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/. (Do not click on the link located in the toolkit in the green box, click on the link under the green box that states "Access the report form [here.](#)") Again, this website gives you, the producer, a voice to let the drought monitor folks know what is occurring in your area.

If you are experiencing drought conditions, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) can potentially assist with certain projects to allow producers to get water to their livestock. Please read the article below and call this office to see if your project might potentially be eligible under the ECP drought program.

Additionally, call the office to see if the ECP program could potentially assist with fence replacement/repair due to the Neiber Fire south of Worland.

County Committee:

Julie Haun, Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Vice
Chairperson
Jim Butterfield, Member
Everett Jones, Member
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

Next County Committee

Meeting: September 10, 2020

If you are having to haul water to your livestock due to drought conditions, please contact this office to discuss the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Per the Wyoming Department of Health there are several cyanobacterial bloom warning/advisories in the state, of specific concern to this area is Boysen Lake. While livestock may not graze near Boysen, it is possible that there is grazing at nearby water sources that could potentially experience similar blooms. Similar to larkspur, cyanobacteria is a secondary cause of loss when weather conditions exacerbate the blooms. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) can potentially assist with losses due to cyanobacterial bloom. Please call the office to visit about the LIP program.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) is still open and the deadline has been extended until 9/11/2020. Further, all sheep regardless of age are now eligible for program payment.

If you have a Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL), please note that FSFL borrowers who may be experiencing financial hardship may request a one-time FSFL installment payment deferral per the entire FSFL loan term.

Best wishes,

Lisa Bower
County Executive Director

Hot Springs and Washakie County Producers May be Eligible for Emergency Conservation Program Assistance

A drought has caused severe damage in all areas of Washakie County and all areas of Hot Springs County.

A fire has caused severe damage south of Worland due to the Neiber fire area of Washakie County.

A flood near Ten Sleep has caused severe damage in the Alkali Creek area of Washakie County.

If you've suffered severe damage, you may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Washakie-Hot Springs County Farm Service Agency (FSA).

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area

- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- impair or endanger the land

If you qualify for ECP assistance, you may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. Eligible socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers can receive up to 90 percent of the eligible cost of restoration. No one is eligible for more than \$500,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence.

If you've suffered a loss from a natural disaster, you may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance from 8/20/2020 to 9/4/2020.

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, contact your Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

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 losses include:

- **Livestock** - 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.
- **Honeybee** - 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.
- **Farm-Raised Fish** - death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

If you've suffered eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses during calendar year 2020, you must file:

- A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent (15 days for honeybee losses)
- An application for payment by Jan. 30, 2021

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](#)

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Lisa Bower at 307-347-2456 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).