• From Brenda’s Desk

• USDA Offers Drought Impacted Wyoming Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance

• Big Horn County FSA is Accepting Emergency Conservation Program Applications

• Applying for Youth Loans

---

From Brenda’s Desk

It’s harvest season in Big Horn County. I hope this GovDelivery newsletter finds you all having a safe and prosperous harvest season. This summer has been an unseasonably dry one and this office is starting the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) signup. This program can assist in getting water to pastures that have failed watering systems due to the drought. Check out the article below for further details on eligible practices and signup dates.

We are also accepting applications for the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for water hauling. This program assists producers that have hauled water to livestock pastures this year due to failed watering systems or dried up reservoirs. The ELAP program also covers excess feed purchases due to the drought. If you find your operation having to purchase feed in excess of the prior two years our office may be able to assist you. Contact this office for further details and eligibility on these disaster programs.

I’d like to remind each of you of the other programs we have available including: Farm Storage Facility Loans, Marketing Assistance Loans, Agriculture Risk Protection/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Livestock Forage Program, Loan Deficiency Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Livestock Incentive Program, and Non-Insurable Assistance Program. These programs run throughout the year and if you need further information about any of these please stop by our office or call us for information. Also, a reminder to keep us informed of any changes made to your operation such as: purchasing new property, sales of property, acquiring new leases or giving up leases, creating a new entity or changing your current entity shares or members, and if you change your banking information. By keeping us informed of changes you help us to keep your records up to date which makes signups go much smoother.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your agricultural needs.

---

USDA Offers Drought Impacted Wyoming Farmers and Ranchers Immediate Disaster Assistance

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist you in your recovery efforts following drought. Available programs and loans include:

• Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing).
• **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** – provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land.

• **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event, except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and directly results in the death of eligible livestock.

• **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.

• **Emergency Loan Program** – available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial Disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.

• **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, you must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form FSA-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on these programs, contact your Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

---

**Big Horn County FSA is Accepting Emergency Conservation Program Applications**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications in Big Horn County for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to address damages from the drought. ECP signup will begin on August 23, 2021 and end on September 24, 2021.

The approved ECP practices include spring development, drilling livestock water wells, installing watering pipelines, water tanks, storage tanks, and pumping systems.

ECP helps you with the cost to restore the farmland to pre-disaster conditions. You may receive up to 75 percent of the cost of approved restoration activity. Limited resource, socially disadvantaged 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. The payment limitation for ECP is $500,000 per disaster, and the funds are limited to activities to return the land to the relative pre-disaster condition.

You 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. Conservation concerns that were present on the land prior to the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance.

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.

For more information on ECP, contact the Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit farmers.gov/recover.

---

**Applying for Youth Loans**
The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is $5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

For help preparing the application forms, contact your Big Horn County USDA Service Center at (307)765-2689 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.