Message From the County Office

USDA Expands Assistance to Cover Feed Transportation Costs for Drought-Impacted Ranchers

In response to the severe drought conditions in the West and Great Plains, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) can now provide financial help towards the cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing. USDA has updated the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to cover feed transportation costs for drought impacted ranchers.

The new ELAP Feed Transportation Producer Tool (fsa.usda.gov/elap) is a Microsoft Excel workbook that enables ranchers to input information specific to their operation to determine an estimated payment. Final payments may vary depending on eligibility. The tool calculates the estimated payment for feed transportation assistance, but it is not an application. To simplify the application process, ranchers can print, or email payment estimates generated by this tool for submission to FSA. The deadline to apply for ELAP, including feed transportation costs, for 2021 is Jan. 31, 2022.

To use the tool, ranchers will need:

- Number of truckloads for this year.
- Mileage per truckload this year.
- Share of feed cost this year (if splitting loads).
- Number of truckloads you normally haul.
- Normal mileage per truckload.
- Share of normal feed cost

Eligibility

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing and producers must have incurred feed transportation costs on or after the day of the qualifying drought, which was June 8, 2021 for Campbell County producers. Although producers will self-certify losses and expenses to FSA, producers are encouraged to maintain good records and retain receipts and related documentation in the event these documents are requested for review by the local FSA County Committee for 3 years.

Payment Calculations

USDA will reimburse eligible ranchers 60% of feed transportation costs above what would have been incurred in a normal year. Producers qualifying as underserved (socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or military veteran) will be reimbursed for 90% of the feed transportation cost above what would have been incurred in a normal year.

USDA uses a national cost formula to determine reimbursement costs that will not include the first 25 miles and distances exceeding 1,000 transportation miles. The calculation will also exclude the normal cost to transport hay or
Feed if the producer normally purchases some feed. For 2021, the initial cost formula of $6.60 per mile will be used (before the percentage is applied).

Please call to schedule your appointment.

**Wool Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)**

Wool rates for the week of December 8th-December 15th are .40/pound. To lock in this rate, sign your wool LDP application and submit your shorn wool receipts.

**Livestock Forage Program (LFP)**

FSA is currently accepting applications for LFP for grazed and native improved pasture and certain crops planted specifically for grazing. Eligible livestock include beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, equine, goats, sheep and more. Campbell County is currently eligible for 4 months of payments. Records of all drought related sales of livestock are necessary. Please contact the office for details on livestock categories and to make an appointment. January 31, 2022 is the deadline to enroll in LFP for 2021 losses.

From the Campbell County FSA Staff

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**FSA Offers Loan Servicing Options**

There are options for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about your options.

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**Important Deadlines**

December 24th- Office Closed in Observance of Christmas
December 31st- Office Closed in Observance of New Year’s
January 17th- Office Closed in Observance of Marth Luther King Jr Day
January 31st- Deadline for Livestock Forage Program and for ELAP Hay Hauling
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Travis Busenitz, Chairperson
Jody Cheser, Vice-Chairperson
Gwen Geis, Member

Next County Committee Meeting
January 5th, 2021