Crook County Service Center Updates

Hello Everyone!

As you may already know, Crook County is now in a D3 - Extreme Drought designation. With this designation, there are several drought assistance programs available.

**ECP - Emergency Conservation Program**

If you are having livestock water supply issues because the normal water sources in your pastures have failed, dried up or is unusable, **please contact our office a soon as possible** to let us know what your specific needs are. Wells, pumps, pipeline, and stock tanks are some of the common resource needs that can be covered on a cost-share basis through this program. Our county will have to request funding for this program based on the estimated costs, so we will also need an estimate of your costs. See the article below about ECP - Emergency Conservation Program for more details.

**ELAP - Emergency Livestock Assistance Program**

This program is also a cost-share program. One aspect of this program is assistance for water hauling during drought. If you are having to haul water when that is not your normal practice, please keep track of your water hauling. Save receipts if you have water delivered or hire someone to haul water. Also, keep track of the mileage on your personal vehicle, number of trips and gallons hauled per trip. The more documentation we have, the easier it is to get payment to you. Please see the article below for the entire scope of the ELAP program.

**NAP – Non-Insured Assistance Program**

If you have your hay covered under a NAP Policy, please call our office as soon as possible!

1. **File a notice of loss!** If you know, or even suspect you have a loss, report it to the office as soon as you notice, no later than 15 days after you notice. When in doubt, call the office.

2. **Do NOT graze, spray, or otherwise destroy your hay crops before talking to the office!** Unharvested hay acres that are not appraised before being destroyed or put to another use - such as grazing, will not be paid a loss payment. Whether or not you have a loss, an appraisal MUST be done on any acres reported as hay BEFORE you graze them. Not getting an appraisal means those acres will count for zero production for your APH, which can significantly impact your yield guarantees for the next ten years.

3. **DO get unharvested hay fields appraised!** Even if you are leaving a hayfield unharvested and ungrazed, an appraisal is still needed. Crops left standing without an appraisal also results in zero production counted. This will negatively impact your coverage in the same way as grazing your hayfields.

**LFP - Livestock Forage Program**
This program is based on your livestock numbers and the grazing acres you have reported at your Spring Acreage Report Appointment. The sign-up for this program will begin Monday, July 19th. We will need your livestock numbers owned as of June 8th, 2020. If you sold any animals in the 60 days prior to June 8th (April 8th - June 7th) solely due to the drought, please keep these receipts. Also, if you graze your animals in more than one county, please let us know!

If you have not yet been into our office or have an appointment already set up to do your acreage report, please call our office to schedule an appointment before July 15th, 2021. This is the deadline to report your acres. After this date a late fee will apply.

Here is a chart that will help you gather your numbers for us:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owned on 6/8/2021</th>
<th>Mitigated 4/9 – 6/7/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle – Adult Cows &amp; Bulls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle – Non-Adult 500 lbs or more</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle – Non-Adult Less than 500 lbs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep – All</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine – All</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats – All</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle applicable animal:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpaca, Deer, Elk, Emu, Llama, Reindeer All</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle applicable animal:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beefalo, Buffalo/Bison, Dairy Cattle –</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 500 lbs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 500 lbs</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- All claimed inventory must be WEANED and utilize grazing acres.
- Heifers bred on or before 6/8/2021 are defined as adults. (Adults pay more, so it is important.)
- To count as “mitigated” livestock must have been sold DUE TO DROUGHT not normal practice: sales - fall calf sales, open cows, etc.

Emergency Conservation Program

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

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 2021, 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, 2022

Applying for FSA Guaranteed Loans

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to $1,776,000. 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.

For more information on guaranteed loans, contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 Ext 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).
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P.O Box 1070
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Sundance Wyoming, 82729

Phone: 307-283-2870
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**County Committee:**
Ivan Cranston
Jeanne Habeck
Alan Ista

**Next Scheduled COC Meeting**
TBD