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

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

USDA Announces Updated Conservation Practice Standards

Conservation at Work Video Series

FSA CED Updates, Upcoming Deadlines, & A Joke

Happy New (Fiscal) Year and for all baseball fans- Happy Postseason! October beginning means dollars will again be flying out the door and into the community.

ARC/PLC- We were able to start processing payments for ARC/PLC today. Currently, Barley and Wheat are paying within the PLC program. Additional crops will continue to be announced throughout the next few weeks.

COVID/Locked Doors- The decision has been made in Washington that we are to again lock our door and be open by phone or email appointment only, due to the increase in Delta cases of COVID. Please feel free to leave any signed documents in the pink box within the lobby. A staff member will be checking the box throughout the day.

CRP- October brings the annual rental payments for CRP. We have been advised that payments will begin within the next few weeks. Expect to see your payment in your account by the end of October. Thank you for all of your patience and quick responses in getting the recent CRP sign-ups completed! We will be having meetings in the future about the interim conservation plans. Please keep your eyes open if you are one of the producers who have an interim plan.

LFP- Goshen County did become eligible for LFP payments as we have been in a D2 drought for more than 8 weeks. As of right now, these payments will be approximately 1/4 of what they were last year, based on drought conditions and the level of drought we have been in. Emails and letters are going out this week with requests for documentation and numbers. Please get these back to us quickly- the quicker we get all of the information we need, the sooner we can get you paid. Please contact Kate at the office for more information on this program.

Upcoming Deadlines
Oct. 11- Columbus Day- Office Closed
Oct. 12- CFAP 2 Deadline (this was an extension, not a new program)
Nov. 1- OCCSP Deadline
Nov. 11- Veteran's Day- Office Closed
Nov. 15- Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall Planted Crops
Nov. 25- Thanksgiving- Office Closed
Dec. 1- NAP Purchase Deadline for all Grazing/Forage Crops

Joke
What do you call a chicken that haunts your house? A poultrygeist.

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) announced today its plans to help cover the cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing. USDA is updating the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to immediately cover feed transportation costs for drought impacted ranchers. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide more details and tools to help ranchers get ready to apply at their local USDA Service Center later this month at fsa.usda.gov/elap.

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. ELAP already covers the cost of hauling water during drought, and this change will expand the program beginning in 2021 to cover feed transportation costs where grazing and hay resources have been depleted. This includes places where:

- Drought intensity is D2 for eight consecutive weeks as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor;
- Drought intensity is D3 or greater; or
- USDA has determined a shortage of local or regional feed availability.

Cost share assistance will also be made available to cover eligible cost of treating hay or feed to prevent the spread of invasive pests like fire ants.

Under the revised policy for feed transportation cost assistance, eligible ranchers will be reimbursed 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.

A national cost formula, as established by USDA, will be used to determine reimbursement costs which 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), but may be adjusted on a state or regional basis.

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing and producers must have incurred feed transportation costs on or after Jan. 1, 2021. 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. The deadline to file an application for payment for the 2021 program year is Jan. 31, 2022.

USDA offers a comprehensive portfolio of disaster assistance programs. On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help producers and landowners determine all program or loan options available for disaster recovery assistance.

More information on this expansion to ELAP is forthcoming. In the meantime, more information is available at fsa.usda.gov/elap or by contacting a local USDA Service Center.

### 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 Goshen County USDA Service Center at 307-532-4880 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s average size farm.

For more information contact, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Announces Updated Conservation Practice Standards

USDA has completed and published updates to its set of National Conservation Practice Standards, which include 58 standards that have been updated or revised since August. The 2018 Farm Bill required USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to review all 169 of its national conservation practices to seek opportunities to increase flexibility and incorporate new technologies.

NRCS's National Conservation Practice Standards provides guidelines for planning, designing, installing, operating and maintaining conservation practices. The 58 revised standards cover a wide range of practices, including irrigation water management, heavy use area protection, and composting facilities.

During the review process, NRCS is adding two new conservation practices dealing with wastewater treatment and wildlife habitat planning, along with maintaining an additional 18 interim conservation practice standards that are being tested to establish and document natural resource benefits.

These updated practices include changes in technology and add criteria to address emerging concerns such as soil health, water conservation, drought tolerance, and resiliency. They contribute to the USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda’s goal of reducing the environmental footprint of U.S. agriculture in half by 2050.

For more information on the National Conservation Practice Standards, visit nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS field office. To learn about the benefits of conservation practices directly from the farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners applying them, check out the Conservation at Work video series.

Conservation at Work Video Series
A new video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, *Conservation at Work*, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they’ve implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

The first 15 videos cover:

- Brush Management
- Cover Crop
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Grade Stabilization
- Grassed Waterway
- High Tunnel
- No Till
- Nutrient Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pumping Station
- Sprinkler System
- Trails and Walkways
- Waste Storage
- Water & Sediment Control Basin
- Wetland Restoration

The *Conservation at Work* video series can be found at [farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork](https://farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork).

---

**Torrington USDA Service Center**

1441 East M Street
Torrington, WY 82240

Phone: 307-532-4880
Fax: 855-415-3443

**FSA County Executive Director**

COURTNEY YELTON
307-532-4880 X2
courtney.yelton@usda.gov

**NRCS District Conservationist**

RYAN CLAYTON
307-532-4880 x3
ryan.clayton@usda.gov
FSA Farm Loan Manager

DIXIE MOUNT (Platte County)

307-322-4050
dixie.mount@usda.gov