Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

Drought conditions continue to persist – leaving Niobrara County primarily at the D1 – ‘Moderate Drought’ level, with a small percentage of the county in D2 – ‘Severe Drought’. After being at D2 for eight weeks, Niobrara County became eligible for drought assistance under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), qualifying for 1 month’s feed cost (maximum of 5 months feed cost). If you’ve sustained a grazing loss due to drought, please stay tuned for when we begin taking appointments for LFP. We are currently preparing for this signup and hope to begin in the next several weeks.

If you have a NAP hay or other yield-based policy, and your production will be below normal due to the dry conditions or any other weather event, please be sure to contact the office to submit a notice of loss so that your loss level can be assessed, and potential payment determined.

Also, please keep in mind the other impacts that FSA can assist with. If your current water sources reach a point of being unable to provide sufficient water for livestock, and you have to implement alternative solutions, please let the office know. If you experience weather events that cause grazing losses, please also let us know. There are many different programs and resources available for varying weather events and impacts.

If you feel conditions are dire and not accurately reflected on the drought monitor, please visit droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/ to report drought conditions and impacts in your area, as many FSA programs are reliant upon the drought monitor for eligibility, and these condition reports are extremely helpful. The folks who review these reports strongly encourage comparison photos of this year vs what a normal year looks like or photos of a post hole dug showing the moisture, or lack thereof.

Keep praying for rain!

-Niobrara County FSA Staff

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:
September 6, 2021 – OFFICE CLOSED – Labor Day Holiday
October 11, 2021 – OFFICE CLOSED – Columbus Day Holiday
October 12, 2021 – Deadline to apply for CFAP 2 benefits
Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss
Within 30 days of noticing livestock, pasture, or feed loss – File LIP/ELAP Notice of Loss
Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

NAP provides financial assistance to you for crops that aren’t eligible for crop insurance to protect against lower yields or crops unable to be planted due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

To receive payment, you had to purchase NAP coverage for 2021 crops and file a notice of loss the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact the Niobrara County USDA Service Center at 307-334-2953, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/nap.

Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires.

CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.

Beginning, veteran or social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands. New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods.

For more information, contact your Niobrara County USDA Service Center at 307-334-2953, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage

If you’re enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.
Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product.** Protect yourself as a Buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

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905 South Main St
Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-2953
FSA - Ext. 2 - NRCS - Ext. 3
Fax: 855-415-3433

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**
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**County Committee**
Kurt Gaukel, Chairman
Jason ZumBrunnen, Vice Chairman
Joe Kruse
Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:
September 16, 2021