



2021 Second Quarter

**Sweetwater-Sublette —  
Uinta County**

79 Winston Dr. Ste. 110  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
307.362.3062 x2  
FAX: 855.415.3440

100 E. Sage  
PO Box 1529  
Lyman, WY 82937  
307.787.3859 x2  
FAX: 855.415.3435

Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

County Committee  
Shelby Arambel - Sublette  
David Pape - Sublette  
Bob Slagowski - Sweetwater  
Bonnie Hueckstaedt – Sweetwater  
Dustin Condos – Uinta  
Steve Sims - Uinta  
Carl Hickey - Uinta  
Chrissy Larson – Uinta

Office Personnel  
Jennifer Dutton, County Director  
Casey Langley, Program Technician  
Sadie Valdez, Program Technician  
Sherri Harvey, District Director



**MOLES:**

**Machinery, Operating, Livestock,  
Expansion and Starting Out Loans**

*Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock and machinery purchases call:*

Brian Harrell, Farm Loan Manager  
Carol Zogata, Program Technician  
307.856.7524

## FROM JEN'S DESK.....

We're moving along. We've been allowed to move to Phase 1 of the Federal Re-opening Plan. While we are still being encouraged to complete as much work remotely as possible, if necessary we can take appointments as long as you don't feel ill and haven't been exposed to the COVID. **PLEASE** call the office before heading our direction! Just a reminder we can also be contacted and/or do business by phone, email, mail, and pigeon.

Under the American Rescue Act, Secretary Vilsack and USDA have announced additional assistance under the Pandemic Assistance for Producers Program. **If you have already applied for CFAP 1 and/or 2, you do not need to do anything else, your additional payments will just show up in your bank account if you had eligible commodities (cattle and certain crops).** If you missed the CFAP2 deadline and wish to apply, please contact your local FSA office. Extended signup began April 5, 2021 and will be open for a minimum of 60 days. See National Office article on next page for full details.

Continued **Drought** is upon us. Sweetwater, Sublette, Uinta, Daggett, Summit, Moffat, Carbon and Fremont counties have qualified for LFP payments. This is based on physical location of the land, eligible livestock and general eligibility requirements such as having filed an annual crop report (CCC-578). Please make sure to keep an eye out for crop reporting coming in last Spring and Summer. Deadline to apply for LFP benefits is January 30, 2022. We will be starting the application process when we crop report for crop year 2021.

Please keep us updated on extreme drought conditions you are encountering as we move into the summer grazing season such as water hauling, removing livestock from the range, late turnout, reduced numbers etc.

**You can call 307-362-3062 (Sweetwater/Sublette) or 307-787-3859 x2(Uinta) to make an appointment.**

# USDA Announces Pandemic Assistance for Producers Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is establishing new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. The new initiative—**USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers**—will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs.

USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new programs. The Department will also develop rules for new programs that will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers, timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel, among others. Existing programs like the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will fall within the new initiative and, where statutory authority allows, will be refined to better address the needs of producers.

**USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers** was needed, said Vilsack, after a review of previous COVID-19 assistance programs targeting farmers identified a number of gaps and disparities in how assistance was distributed as well as inadequate outreach to underserved producers and smaller and medium operations.

USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has committed at least \$2.5 million to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will establish partnerships with organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

## USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers – 4 Parts

### ***Part 1: Investing \$6 Billion to Expand Help & Assistance to More Producers***

USDA will dedicate at least \$6 billion to develop a number of new programs or modify existing proposals using discretionary funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act and other coronavirus funding that went unspent by the previous administration.

### ***Part 2: Adding \$500 Million of New Funding to Existing Programs***

USDA expects to begin investing approximately \$500 million in expedited assistance through several existing programs this spring, with most by April 30.

### ***Part 3: Carrying Out Formula Payments under CFAP 1, CFAP 2, CFAP AA***

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted December 2020 requires FSA to make certain payments to producers according to a mandated formula. USDA is now expediting these provisions because there is no discretion involved in interpreting such directives, they are self-enacting.

- An increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle. Cattle producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will automatically receive these payments beginning in April. Information on the additional payment rates for cattle can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Eligible producers do not need to submit new applications, since payments are based on previously approved CFAP 1 application. USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$1.1 billion to more than 410,000 producers, according to the mandated formula.
- Additional CFAP assistance of \$20 per acre for producers of eligible crops identified as CFAP 2 flat-rate or price-trigger crops beginning in April. This includes alfalfa, corn, cotton, hemp, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugar beets and wheat, among other crops. FSA will automatically issue payments to eligible price trigger and flat-rate crop producers based on the eligible acres included on their CFAP 2 applications. Eligible producers do not need to submit a new CFAP 2 application. For a list of all eligible row-crops, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$4.5 billion to more than 560,000 producers, according to the mandated formula.
- USDA will finalize routine decisions and minor formula adjustments on applications and begin processing payments for certain applications filed as part of the CFAP Additional Assistance program in the following categories:
  - Applications filed for pullets and turfgrass sod;
  - A formula correction for row-crop producer applications to allow producers with a non-Actual Production History (APH) insurance policy to use 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield in the calculation;

- Sales commodity applications revised to include insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments, and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus payments, as required by statute; and
- Additional payments for swine producers and contract growers under CFAP Additional Assistance remain on hold and are likely to require modifications to the regulation as part of the broader evaluation and future assistance; however, FSA will continue to accept applications from interested producers.

#### ***Part 4: Reopening CFAP 2 Sign-Up to Improve Access & Outreach to Underserved Producers***

As noted above, USDA will re-open sign-up for of CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021.

- FSA has committed at least \$2.5 million to establish partnerships and direct outreach efforts intended to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will cooperate with grassroots organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

Please visit [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov) for additional information and announcements under the **USDA Pandemic Assistance to Producers** initiative, which will help to expand and more equitably distribute financial assistance to producers and farming operations during the COVID-19 national emergency.

## **New Options for Secure Document Signing**

Farmers and ranchers working with USDA’s Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service can now sign and share documents online in just a few clicks. By using Box or OneSpan, producers can digitally complete business transactions without leaving their homes or agricultural operations. Both services are free, secure, and available for multiple FSA and NRCS programs.

Box is a secure, cloud-based site where FSA or NRCS documents can be managed and shared. Producers who

choose to use Box can create a username and password to access their secure Box account, where documents can be downloaded, printed, manually signed, scanned, uploaded, and shared digitally with Service Center staff. This service is available to any FSA or NRCS customer with access to a mobile device or computer with printer connectivity.

OneSpan is a secure eSignature solution for FSA and NRCS customers. Like Box, no software downloads or eAuthentication is required for OneSpan. Instead, producers interested in eSignature through OneSpan can confirm their identity through two-factor authentication using a verification code sent to their mobile device or a personalized question and answer. Once identity is confirmed, documents can be reviewed and e-signed through OneSpan via the producer’s personal email address. Signed documents immediately become available to the appropriate Service Center staff.

Box and OneSpan are both optional services for customers interested in improved efficiency in signing and sharing documents with USDA, and they do not replace existing systems using eAuthentication for digital signature. Instead, these tools provide additional digital options for producers to use when conducting business with FSA or NRCS.

USDA Service Center staff are available to help producers get started with Box and OneSpan through a few simple steps. Please visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator) to find your local office and let Service Center staff know you’re interested in signing and sharing documents through these new features. In most cases, one quick phone call will be all that is needed to initiate the process.

Visit [farmers.gov/mydocs](http://farmers.gov/mydocs) to learn more about Box and OneSpan, steps for getting started, and additional resources for conducting business with USDA online.

To learn more about program flexibilities and Service Center status during the coronavirus pandemic, visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

**Sweetwater/Sublette/Uinta  
Farm Service Agency**  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**—INSIDE THIS ISSUE—**

**From Jen's desk**

**Pandemic Assistance for Producers**

**New Options for Secure Signatures**

***WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER***

• **April 5** – CFAP 2 re-opening

• **July 15** – 2021 Annual Acreage Reporting deadline

• **Immediately** – Weather and loss conditions, including livestock losses

• **15 days after apparent** – Deadline to file NAP losses (hay & grazing)