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From Lisa's Desk:

CED Comments:

Greetings. Please read the following:

- We are still open for business, but due to the latest Covid outbreak, visitors or producers are no longer allowed in the building. Call the office at 307-347-2456 ext. 2 as we can still work by phone, by email and/or use the box/one span system for signatures on applications.

- We are taking LFP drought applications for grazing losses. Please contact the office for more information.

- If you want to sign up for NAP for potential grazing losses for 2022 – the deadline is 12/1/2021. Please see the article below.

- We are still taking ELAP water hauling applications. You need to complete a notice of loss or call in to the office to tell us you are hauling water before you start to haul water.

- There have been many requests for information on the ELAP for feed transportation cost program. Please read the following: An online tool is now available to help ranchers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation costs caused by drought, which are now covered by the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated the program this year to include feed transportation costs as well as lowered the threshold for when assistance for water hauling expenses is available.

The new ELAP Feed Transportation Producer Tool 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.

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
The tool requires Microsoft Excel, and a tutorial video is available. 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).

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.

Call the office if you have any questions at 307-347-2456 ext 2.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Lisa Bower
County Executive Director

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**FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections**

The 2021 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 1, 2021, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is **Dec. 6, 2021**.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

Eligible voters in local administrative area, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2022.

The candidates in this year’s election are:

**LAA1:**

Jim Butterfield is nominated in LAA 1, Washakie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Butterfield resides near Worland and has produced sheep, cattle and hay for his entire life.
He is an active member of Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District and serves as Chairman and he is a current member of the FSA Washakie-Hot Springs County Committee.

Dave Slover is nominated in LAA 1, Washakie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Slover resides near Worland and has produced cattle for 27 years.

He is an active member of the Washakie County Conservation District and the Gooseberry Creek Irrigation District, upon which he serves as Chairman and President respectively.

LAA3:

Reed Lyman is nominated in LAA 3, Washakie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Lyman resides near Ten Sleep and has produced cattle for 23 years.

He is not currently an active member of any organization.

Cameron Roady is nominated in LAA 3, Washakie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Roady resides near Worland, but his ranch headquarters are in the Ten Sleep area. Roady has produced cattle for 23 years.

He is an active member of the Worland District of the Wyoming State Grazing Board and serves as a member.

LAA5:

Heather Jones is nominated in LAA 5, Hot Springs County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Jones resides on Kirby Creek and has produced sheep and cattle for over six years.

She is an active member of the Wyoming Wool Growers and serves as a voting member.

Billie Jo Norsworthy is nominated in LAA 5, Hot Springs County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Norsworthy resides in Thermopolis and has produced cattle, niche wool and hay for years.

She is an active member of Hot Springs County Fair Board, the Central Wyoming Cutting Club and the Lucerne Irrigation District Board and serves as a voting member.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2021 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Noninsured Crop Coverage Helps Producers Manage Risks

The Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps you manage risk through coverage for both crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters. The eligible or “noninsured” crops include agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance.

You must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop in the crop year in which the loss incurred to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Buy-up levels of NAP coverage are available if the producer can show at least one year of previously successfully growing the crop for which coverage is being requested.
Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

**NAP Service Fees**

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

**NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans**

Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, “Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.”

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, contact your Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 ext. 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://fsa.usda.gov/nap).

### 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 your Washakie/Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 x 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

### Applying for Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is $5,000.

**Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

1. Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
2. Be 10 years to 20 years of age
3. Comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirements
4. Be unable to get a loan from other sources
5. Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
6. Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

For help preparing the application forms, contact your Washakie/Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 x 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

NRCS Announces EQIP, AMA and RCPP Signup for 2022 Funding, Apply by November 22, 2021

Farmers, Ranchers and landowners will want to plan ahead and sign up early for USDA conservation funding. James Bauchert, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting State Conservationist in Wyoming, announced that farmers, ranchers and landowners interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) and Regional Conservation Planning Partnership Program (RCPP) need to apply by Nov. 22, 2021, to be considered for funding in the current 2022 cycle. Applications are being taken at all USDA Service Centers in Wyoming.

While Wyoming NRCS accepts applications for these programs year-round, farmers, ranchers and landowners should apply by the Nov. 22 ranking date to be considered for this year’s funding. If you apply after the program ranking date, Wyoming NRCS will automatically consider your application during the next funding cycle. State-specific ranking dates for all programs can be found at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/staterankingdates/.

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers and landowners for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 120 basic conservation practices. Last year, Wyoming received over $14 million in funds for EQIP practices.

“The new Farm Bill allows NRCS to support conservation that ensures cost-effective financial assistance for improved soil health, water and air quality and other natural resources benefits,” said Bauchert. By getting EQIP applications in early, NRCS staff will have time to assist in planning conservation practice needs.”

All eligible applications received by Nov. 22, 2021, will be evaluated, prioritized and ranked for funding in 2022. Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center to get started on producer eligibility and planning. Bauchert reminds farmers who are interested in practices that may require permits, such as manure storage or streambank restoration, to begin planning and seeking permits as soon as possible.
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Arnold Pennoyer, Member
Everett Jones, Member
Jim Butterfield, Member

**NRCS:**

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