

January 2021



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Weston County FSA Updates

Weston County FSA Office

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Randy Oleson, Vice Chairman
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Robin Riesland, Minority Advisor

Message from CED Peggy Livingston

Happy New Year. I hope this message finds you off to a good start in 2021!

We are off to a busy start here at the Weston County Farm Service Agency. There are a couple of key ongoing application periods of which I want to direct your attention.

The Weston County FSA Office was recently informed that Weston County is now eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). This program is triggered by a rating of D2 or greater by the US Drought Monitor. Weston County has been in D2 drought for over 8 weeks, qualifying producers for one monthly payment. The signup period for the program **ends February 1, 2021** and we are currently holding walk-in signups at the Weston County Events Center January 26-28 from 9AM to 3PM. If you cannot make these dates, please contact our office immediately to set an appointment on a different date. If we are not available to answer your call, you must leave a message to indicate your interest to signup. Information and/or documentation needed are a copy of all current leases for 2020, livestock numbers that were owned on or before September 10, 2021 and still owned as of November 9, 2021, and be animals maintained for commercial use or as part of the ranch operation. If producers sold livestock due to drought conditions during the current production year (2020) or one or both the two production years immediately preceding the current program

Next County Committee Meeting:

March 24, 2021 @ 1 PM

year, please bring in a copy of your sale receipts. For more information on this program, [click here](#).

We also are working with producers to complete their 2021 crop year Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage program contracts. The signup period is **open through March 15, 2021**. ARC and PLC are key safety net programs designed to assist you with weathering fluctuations in either revenue or price for covered commodities. For more information on the 2021 election and enrollment process, [click here](#). Please keep in mind the March 15 deadline is for both election (choosing ARC or PLC) and enrollment (signing a 2021 contract). Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If you have a multi-year contract on the farm and want to make an election change for 2021, that also needs to be complete by the March 15 deadline. Producers are encouraged to call the Weston County FSA Office at (307) 746-2701, ext. 2, to schedule an election and enrollment appointment or talk to us about it if you are joining us for the 2020 LFP walk-in signups at the fairgrounds.

USDA had announced three additional programs: Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) program, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup, and additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). USDA announced on January 5, 2021 that the Quality Loss Adjustment Program will assist producers whose eligible crops suffered quality losses due to qualifying drought, excessive moisture, flooding, hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, or wildfires occurring in calendar years 2018 and/or 2019. Only Big Horn, Laramie and Sheridan Counties in Wyoming qualify for this program. If you would like to learn more about this program, [click here](#). For more information about the CRP general signup and the additional assistance through CFAP, please see the following articles.

We are continuing to work through the 2020 NAP grazing loss applications for payment and thank you for your continued patience as we have to pause payment programs for signup programs. We will get back to processing the NAP applications as soon as possible.

And, just a quick reminder, if you have not already submitted your 2020 leases to the office, please do so as soon as possible. Failure to have these current leases on file could result in delayed or reduced payments for both the NAP and LFP programs.

Best wishes,

Peggy Livingston, CED

Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind
- Easements of any kind
- Subordinations
- Partial releases
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](#).

FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Continuous Signup](#).

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your Weston County FSA at (307) 746-2701 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp.

USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The United States Department of Agriculture has announced additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program. Producers who are now eligible and those who need to modify existing applications due to these updates can contact USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) now through Feb. 26. Some of these changes are being made to align with the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, while others are discretionary changes being made in response to ongoing evaluation of CFAP. It should be noted that FSA has not yet announced payment provisions for the cattle sector or dairy sector, or additional per-acre crop payments, as outlined in the recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. FSA continues to work on these provisions and will announce them at a later time. Provisions announced in early January include:

Expanded Eligibility for CFAP 2

Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, pullets, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic now are eligible to apply for assistance. Producers could receive up to 80% of their revenue loss, subject to the availability of funds.

Producers of pullets and turfgrass sod also now are eligible to apply for CFAP payments. The commodities were not explicitly included in the initial CFAP 2 rule. Payments are based on eligible sales and the payment calculation in the updated rule includes crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments, and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) payments.

Updated Payment Calculations for CFAP 2

Similarly, FSA adjusted the payment calculation on "sales commodities" under CFAP 2 to use the producer's eligible 2019 calendar year sales, and 2019 crop insurance indemnities, NAP, and WHIP+ payments, multiplied by the applicable payment rate. CFAP 2 sales commodities include specialty crops, aquaculture, specialty livestock, nursery crops and floriculture. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can modify an existing CFAP 2 application now through the Feb. 26 deadline to reflect any insurance indemnities and NAP or WHIP+ payments.

Additionally, FSA adjusted the payment calculation for certain row crops for CFAP 2, specifically those where a producer had crop insurance coverage but not an available 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. FSA, in some particular situations, is now using 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield to calculate payments when an APH is not available rather than 85%, which was in the original CFAP 2 calculations. This calculation changes only for producers with crop insurance coverage who grow barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton and wheat. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can request to modify an existing CFAP 2 application now through the Feb. 26 deadline.

CFAP 1 'Top-up' Payments for Swine

FSA is providing an additional CFAP 1 inventory payment for swine to help producers who face continuing market disruptions from changes in U.S. meat consumption due to the pandemic. Swine producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will soon automatically receive a "top-up" payment of \$17 per head, increasing the total CFAP1 inventory payment to \$34 per head.

More Information

Newly eligible producers can submit a new CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so **now through Feb. 26, 2021**, by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](#).

In addition to the changes being made to CFAP, per language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, FSA will extend 2020 Marketing Assistance Loans to provide additional flexibilities for farmers.

To learn more about this additional assistance, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

Dates to Remember

February 1, 2021 – Deadline to apply for Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) assistance for 2020 losses

February 12, 2021 – Application period closes for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup

February 15, 2021 – USDA Service Centers closed for federal holiday

February 26, 2021 – Deadline to apply for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Additional Assistance

March 5, 2021 – Deadline to submit an application for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program

March 15, 2021 – Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) election and enrollment application deadline for 2021 crop season

March 15, 2021 – Application period opens for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)-Grasslands signup

March 15, 2021 – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing date for 2021 coverage on Hemp

April 1, 2021 – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing date for 2021 coverage on millet, sorghum forage, triticale, and spring planted barley, oats, and wheat.

- **NAP Notice of Loss for Crops** must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date.
- **LIP Notice of Loss for Livestock Losses** must be filed within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.
- **Leases and/or Land Ownership including operational changes** must be reported within 30 calendar days of change to avoid late fees, repayment of funds issued and/or ineligibility for program participation. All changes must be reported by August 1 of the program year in which benefits are being requested.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact Peggy Livingston at 307-746-2701 extension 2 or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).