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A Message from Acting County Executive Director

It's the start of fall this month, which means we are seeing our producers busy with fall cattle work and planting. It's an exciting and hopefully rewarding time as you see the results of a growing season’s worth of work and plan for next year’s crop. Please remember to work safely and to take a moment to enjoy our beautiful Wyoming sunrises as you are headed out for your fall work.

We are also busy at the Farm Service Agency office. We are working hard to keep all our drought-related programs moving forward and providing assistance to you where needed.

We are getting a lot of questions regarding USDA’s announcement to help cover the cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing. We are still waiting for more details and guidance on how to administer the program. For now, we are recommending that you collect mileage information from your haulers and keep all your feed receipts. We will keep you informed through our normal channels on when we can start taking applications, the documentation we will need, and program deadlines.

Now is also the time we work on general records cleanup. If you’ve had any recent changes to your address, phone numbers, banking information, or any organizational changes in your farm or ranch business, please let us know. Up-to-date information is critical for distribution of any program benefits that you may be due. This includes CRP annual rental payments and assistance through the Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage commodity crop safety net programs, both of which will be issued soon.

We also have several deadlines approaching for fall crop reporting, NAP coverage signup, and other emergency assistance programs. Please see the below “Dates to Remember” section for details.

That’s all for this month. Best wishes for a successful and safe fall season.

Sherie Hilgenkamp
Wyoming NRCS Announces Environmental Quality Incentive Program Sign Up

Agricultural producers and forest landowners can now submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). USDA accept applications must be submitted by January 4th to be considered for fiscal year 2022 funding.

EQIP offers agricultural producers financial and technical assistance to producers and is administered by NRCS. EQIP offers conservation practices to help producers make improvements, including enhancing water and air quality, conserving ground and surface water, reducing soil erosion and sedimentation or enhancing wildlife habitat.

EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. However, to be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2022, applicants must apply by January 4th. Applications submitted by the funding cycle deadline will be evaluated to be considered for funding in that funding cycle. Applications received after that date will be accepted and evaluated for future funding.

If a producer’s application is funded, NRCS will offer an EQIP contract for financial assistance to help address the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

To apply, contact your NRCS field office for an appointment.

USDA Updates Pandemic Assistance for Livestock, Poultry Contract Producers and Specialty Crop Growers

USDA Sets October 12 Deadline for CFAP 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) for contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry and producers of specialty crops and other sales-based commodities. CFAP 2, which assists producers who faced market disruptions in 2020 due to COVID-19, is part of USDA’s broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Additionally, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set an Oct. 12 deadline for all eligible producers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2.

Assistance for Contract Producers

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, provides up to $1 billion for payments to contract producers of eligible livestock and poultry for revenue losses from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 27, 2020. Contract producers of broilers, pullets, layers, chicken eggs, turkeys, hogs and pigs, ducks, geese, pheasants and quail may be eligible for assistance. This update includes eligible breeding stock and eggs of all eligible poultry types produced under contract.

Payments for contract producers were to be based on a comparison of eligible revenue for the periods of Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 27, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 27, 2020. Today’s changes mean contract producers can now elect to use eligible revenue from the period of Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 27, 2018, instead of that date range in 2019 if it is more representative. This change is intended to provide flexibility and make the program more equitable for contract producers who had reduced revenue in 2019 compared to a normal production year. The difference in revenue is then multiplied by 80% to determine a final payment. Payments to contract producers may be factored if total calculated payments exceed the available funding and will be made after the application period closes.
Additional flexibilities have been added to account for increases to operation size in 2020 and situations where a contract producer did not have a full period of revenue from Jan. 1 to Dec. 27 for either 2018 or 2019. Assistance is also available to new contract producers who began their farming operation in 2020.

**Updates for Sales-Based Commodities**

USDA is amending the CFAP 2 payment calculation for sales-based commodities, which are primarily comprised of by specialty crops, to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Previously, payments for producers of sales-based commodities were based only on 2019 sales, with 2019 used as an approximation of the amount the producer would have expected to market in 2020. Giving producers the option to substitute 2018 sales for this approximation, including 2018 crop insurance indemnities and 2018 crop year Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) payments, provides additional flexibility to producers of sales-based commodities who had reduced sales in 2019.

Grass seed has also been added as an eligible sales commodity for CFAP 2. A complete list of all eligible sales-based commodities can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities](http://farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities). Producers of sales-based commodities can modify existing applications.

**Applying for Assistance**

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so by contacting their local FSA office. Producers can find their local FSA office by visiting [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator). Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. All new and modified CFAP 2 applications are due by the Oct. 12 deadline.

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**USDA Announces Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers**

*USDA sets October 15 deadline for PATHH*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing up to $200 million to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have experienced losses due to COVID-19 as part of USDA’s Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Loggers and truckers can apply for assistance through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 22 through Oct. 15, 2021. The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH) is administered by FSA in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized this critical assistance for the timber industry. Timber harvesting and hauling businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of at least 10% during the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2020, compared to the period of Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2019, are encouraged to apply.

**Program Details**

To be eligible for payments, individuals or legal entities must be a timber harvesting or timber hauling business where 50% or more of its gross revenue is derived from one or more of the following:

- Cutting timber.
- Transporting timber.
- Processing of wood on-site on the forest land (chipping, grinding, converting to biochar, cutting to smaller lengths, etc.).

Payments will be based on the applicant’s gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 1, 2019, minus gross revenue received from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 1, 2020, multiplied by 80%. FSA will issue an initial payment equal to the lesser of the calculated payment amount or $2,000 as applications are approved. A second payment will be made after the signup period has ended based upon remaining PATHH funds.
The maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive directly is $125,000.

**Applying for Assistance**

Loggers and truckers can apply for PATHH beginning on July 22 by completing form FSA-1118, Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program application, and certifying to their gross revenue for 2019 and 2020 on the application. Additional documentation may be required. Visit [farmers.gov/pathh](http://farmers.gov/pathh) for more information on how to apply.

Applications can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. To find a local FSA office, loggers and truckers can visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator). They can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

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### RMA Revises Dates for the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage and Apiculture Insurance Programs

You now have until December 1 to make coverage decisions and complete reporting activities for the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Pilot Insurance Program (PRF) and Apiculture Pilot Insurance Program (API). USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) is making this change and other updates to these two policies based on feedback from stakeholders.

PRF and API are both Rainfall Index crop insurance policies designed to aid you in case of a lack of precipitation that affects available forage for livestock and honeybees. The plans consider a decline in rainfall by comparing it with the historical average precipitation for the same area during the same period of time. PRF is designed to help protect your livestock operation from the risks of forage loss. In 2020, producers insured almost 160 million acres and nearly 32,000 policies to protect $2.9 billion in liabilities. API provides a safety net for beekeepers’ primary income sources of honey, pollen collection, wax, and breeding stock. In 2020, producers covered about 1.8 million colonies under 3,300 policies to protect $250 million in liabilities.

RMA is revising the dates for the sales closing, acreage/colony reporting, cancellation, and termination of the PRF and API insurance programs from November 15 to December 1. For PRF, RMA is also increasing reporting flexibility by allowing the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) acreage report (form FSA-578) to be used in conjunction with other documents to verify insurable interest.

Other changes to the plans include:

- Revising the definition of “veteran farmer or rancher” to allow a legal entity, comprised only of the veteran and their spouse, to qualify as a veteran farmer or rancher when a qualifying veteran has a non-veteran spouse; and
- Allowing you to report acreage as certified organic, or as acreage in transition to organic, when you have requested an organic certification by the acreage reporting date.

### Other Livestock Insurance Options

Livestock Risk Protection (LRP), which is available for Feeder Cattle, Fed Cattle, and Swine producers. It provides protection against declining market prices. Recent changes to LRP have resulted in substantial increases in program participation and livestock producers are encouraged to explore these risk management tools. More information on LRP and other livestock programs can be found on RMA’s [livestock webpage](http://rma.usda.gov).

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](http://rma.usda.gov). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [rma.usda.gov](http://rma.usda.gov).
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.

Applying for NAP Payments

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (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.

In order to participate, you must obtain NAP coverage for the crop year by the applicable deadline using form CCC-471 “Application for Coverage” and pay the service fee. Application closing dates vary by crop. Producers are also required to submit an acceptable crop acreage report. Additionally, NAP participants must provide:

- The quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended
- Acceptable crop production records (when requested by FSA)

Producers who fail to report acreage and production information for NAP-covered crops could see reduced or zero NAP assistance. These reports are used to calculate the approved yield.

If your NAP-covered crops are affected by a natural disaster, notify your FSA office by completing Part B of form CCC-576 “Notice of Loss and Application for Payment.” This must be completed within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date. For hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops, you must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

To receive benefits, you must also complete Parts D, E, F and G of the CCC-576 “Notice of Loss and Application for Payment” within 60 days of the last day of coverage for the crop year for any NAP covered crops. The CCC-576 requires acceptable appraisal information. Producers must provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

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 your Weston County USDA Service Center at 307-746-2701 ext. 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://fsa.usda.gov/nap).

UPCOMING DEADLINES & IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 11, 2021:** Office closed
- **October 12, 2021:** FSA deadline to submit applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2)
- **October 12, 2021**: FSA deadline to submit applications for the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program
- **October 15, 2021**: FSA deadline to submit application for the 2021 Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program
- **October 25, 2021**: Office closed
- **November 1, 2021**: Ballots mailed to eligible voters for the FSA County Committee election for Local Administrative Area 2
- **November 15, 2021**: FSA acreage reporting deadline to report fall seeded crops and apiculture (bees)
- **December 1, 2021**: FSA NAP application closing deadline for coverage in the 2022 production season

Also remember the following:

**NAP Notice of Loss** must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date.  
**LIP Notice of Loss** must be filed 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.  
**Leases and/or Land Ownership changes 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. The deadline to submit changes for 2022 program year is August 1, 2022.

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**Save Time - Make an Appointment with NRCS and FSA Offices**

The Weston County USDA Service Center is now open to limited visitors by appointment only. Producers are encouraged to call ahead to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of your time and to ensure staff is available to tend to your important business needs. To contact your agency, use the information below.

Also, remember, visitors must wear masks in all USDA buildings regardless of vaccination status.
NWTF Co-Operative Forester:
Austin Sommerville
austin.sommerville@usda.gov

WCNRD Manager:
Caleb Carter
ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com

County Committee:
Chuck Grieves, Chairman
Randy Oleson, Vice Chairman
Harry Tavegia, Member
Robin Riesland, Minority Advisor

WCNRD Board:
David Tysdal, Chairman, Rural Supervisor
Tucker Hamilton, Vice Chairman, Rural Supervisor
Emily Hartinger, Secretary/Treasurer, Rural Supervisor
Gene Norman, Urban Supervisor
Tom Streeter, At-Large Supervisor

Next County Committee Meeting:
October 13, 2021 @ 1pm.
Please contact the office for location information.

WCNRD Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 3pm. The meetings will be held at the Pinnacle Bank in Newcastle until further notice.