Message From the County Office

PRODUCER SERVICES CHANGING

Current workload resulting from disaster programs and Farm Bill mandated programs, combined with fluctuating COVID-19 restrictions and limited staff, have led to reduced producer services. Historically the Campbell County Farm Program staff has taken a proactive approach to promoting programs by reaching out to many program participants individually, via phone or e-mail, to discuss eligibility criteria, enrollment deadlines, and other specific details. Moving forward in 2022, we ask that producers assume this responsibility. Information on FSA programs is available through our monthly electronic bulletin, a quarterly printed newsletter, the USDA FSA website USDA Farm Service Agency Home Page, or a phone call to the office. In addition, many agricultural publications are an excellent source of timely information on FSA programs, as are your neighbors and agricultural service providers.

Please help reduce the burden on staff by making an appointment prior to visiting the office and informing yourself on current programs, especially enrollment deadlines. Information is only a phone call away 307-682-8843.

LIVESTOCK LOSSES & EXTREME COLD

Sustained cold, combined with wind chill, may result in livestock losses that qualify for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). This program provides assistance to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including direct results of below normal extreme cold.

To be eligible a livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock died and/or were injured by an eligible loss condition. An owner’s livestock must have either:

- Died in excess of normal mortality as a direct result of an eligible loss condition,
- Or been injured as a direct result of an eligible loss condition and were sold at a reduced price

For 2022 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower’s contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- Temperature threshold (wind chill for livestock exposed to wind, and ambient temperature for livestock not exposed to wind) must be reached and documentation must be provided from a reputable weather reporting source to substantiate the claim.
- Pertinent livestock inventory records include:
• Documentation of the number, kind, type and weight range of livestock
• Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.

FSA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2.0% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions.

Contact the office for further details.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team is already working on operating loans for spring 2022 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional farm operating, and farm ownership loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

**Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to $50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

- **Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to $500,000 per loan.

NRCS is Now Accepting Program Applications

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)**

EQIP-CIC expands resource benefits for Wyoming producers through incentive conservation practices such as wildlife management, cover crops, nutrient management, conservation crop rotations, and prescribed grazing. Additionally, EQIP-CIC allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering incentive payments for a five-year contract without needing to enroll the entire operation into the program. EQIP-CIC is designed to be a stepping-stone between EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program, to help producers improve their level of conservation and earn benefits of longer-term conservation enhancements.

“We have to continue to support and expand the adoption of conservation approaches to support producers in their work to participate in climate-smart agriculture practices and build more resilient operations,” said NRCS Wyoming State Conservationist Astrid Martinez. “We are continuously working to improve our programs to ensure we’re giving Wyoming farmers and ranchers the best tools to conserve natural resources.”

**Producers must have farm records current with the Farm Service Agency and submit a complete program application to NRCS to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.** Applications are accepted at all
Wyoming NRCS offices located in USDA Service Centers across the state. To find out more information about EQIP please visit the [Wyoming EQIP webpage](#). To locate an NRCS field office near you, please visit the [Wyoming USDA Service Center webpage](#).

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
Agricultural producers and forest landowners looking to build on conservation efforts while strengthening their operation can now apply for technical and financial assistance through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will accept applications, which must be submitted by Friday, March 11, 2022 to be considered for fiscal year 2022 funding.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers CSP in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous signups. The program provides many benefits, including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to adverse weather. CSP is for working lands, including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under Indian tribe jurisdiction.

NRCS Wyoming makes funding selections at specific times during the fiscal year. Additionally, existing CSP participants may have an opportunity to renew their contracts in the first half of the fifth year of their five-year contract.

NRCS accepts applications for CSP at any time throughout the year. NRCS sets specific deadlines for ranking and funding opportunities.

**Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**
USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wyoming is currently accepting applications for enrollment into the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA). AMA is a voluntary Farm Bill program which provides financial assistance for conservation systems such as animal waste management facilities, irrigation system efficiency improvements, fencing, water supply development, riparian protection, and wildlife habitat enhancement. **Producers interested in implementing conservation practices to improve natural resources on their private agricultural land have until Friday, March 11, 2022 to submit applications.**

Producers must have farm records current with the Farm Service Agency and submit a complete program application to NRCS to be considered for financial assistance through AMA. Applications are accepted at all Wyoming NRCS offices located in USDA Service Centers across the state. To find out more information about EQIP please visit the [Wyoming AMA webpage](#). To locate an NRCS field office near you, please visit the [Wyoming USDA Service Center webpage](#).

When visiting with NRCS staff about the AMA program, landowners are encouraged to inquire about NRCS’ comprehensive conservation plans. The Agency continually strives to put conservation planning at the forefront of its programs and initiatives. Conservation plans provide landowners with a comprehensive inventory and assessment of their resources, as well as an appropriate start to improving the quality of soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife on their land.

**Important Deadlines**
- March 15th - ARC/PLC Signup Deadline
- April 1st - Deadline to Purchase NAP for Spring Planted Grain for Hay/ Buy-Up
- July 15th - Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline
Campbell County USDA Service Center
601 4J Court Suite B
Gillette, WY 82716

Phone: 307-682-8843
Fax: 855-4415-3431

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FSA County Committee:
Gwen Geis, Chairperson
Jody Cheser, Vice-Chairperson
Jake Boller, Member

Next County Committee Meeting
March 2nd, 2022