Message From the County Office

Spring Acreage Reporting

*July 15th* is the deadline to report any spring seeded crops. *July 15th* is also the deadline to complete your 2022 Acreage report if you haven’t already done so. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Assistance for Above Normal Costs to Haul Livestock to Forage

Due to persistent drought conditions in the West, financial assistance is available to help ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage and other grazing acres under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). This policy enhancement complements previously announced ELAP compensation for hauling feed to livestock. ELAP livestock and feed hauling assistance is retroactive for 2021 and will be available for losses in 2022 and subsequent years.

Eligibility

To be eligible for ELAP assistance, livestock must be intended for grazing and producers must have incurred feed or livestock transportation costs on or after Jan. 1, 2021. Producers will need to file related documentation with the FSA office to substantiate costs.

Payment Calculations

FSA will reimburse eligible ranchers 60% of livestock 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).

Online Decision Tool

Producers can use the updated ELAP Feed Livestock Transportation Producer Tool to help document and estimate payments to cover both feed and livestock transportation costs caused by drought. The tool (a Microsoft Excel workbook) and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/elap. Final payments may vary depending on eligibility.

Eligible ranchers should contact their FSA county office to apply for ELAP assistance. To simplify the application process, ranchers can print or email payment estimates generated by the online tool for submission to FSA. The
Deadline to request ELAP assistance for hauling livestock to forage in 2021 is June 30, 2022. The deadline to request all ELAP assistance for 2022 calendar year losses will be Jan. 31, 2023.

**Campbell County qualifies for the 2022 Livestock Forage Program (LFP)**

As of May 1, 2022 Campbell County producers and contract growers may be eligible for drought related payments under LFP for livestock that are or would have been grazing or pastured in the county between May 1 to September 30, 2022, on owned or leased land.

Currently, payments will be calculated on three months times the LFP monthly payment rate of 60% of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost:

- For covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer; or
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible producer

If drought conditions persist, it is possible for an increase of up to 5 months of payments.

Additional payment for Drought Related Sales:
Drought related sales of livestock in one or both of the two previous production years (2020 and 2021) immediately preceding the current production year, will be calculated at 80% of the monthly payment rate.

Eligibility and Enrollment:
- Good record keeping is important as sales documents will be required to substantiate these drought related sales.
- A timely filed 2022 acreage report is required for all grazing land for which a loss is being claimed.
- Contract growers must include a copy of the grower contract and any other supporting documents required for determining contract grower eligibility.
- The deadline to file an application for payment and supporting documentation is January 31, 2023.

If all these disaster programs confuse you, please don’t hesitate to contact the office so that staff can explain eligibility and how each one relates to your operation.

From the Campbell County FSA Staff

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**Vacancy Announcement**

The Campbell County FSA office is hiring a Temporary Program Technician to assist with clerical work and farm program administration for up to 40 hours per week. The Farm Service Agency is an exciting and rewarding place to start, build and/or continue your career. Be part of our team and support the well-being of American agriculture and the American public. You will receive on-the-job training intended to further develop your talent, skills, and abilities to successfully administer farm programs. Prior office experience is helpful, and an agricultural background is preferred but not essential. A high school diploma or GED, along with computer and phone skills are required. There is no requirement for the vaccination at this point for any new hires. Contact Pam Smith at 307-696-4450 or pamela.s.smith@usda.gov for more details.

**IMAGINE: Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems**
IMAGINE a Wyoming where iconic western landscapes and diverse, native rangelands bloom without the negative impacts and wildfire risk caused by invasive annual grasses like cheatgrass, ventenata, and medusahead, supporting vibrant agriculture, wildlife, and local communities. Building upon existing world-class partnerships and the research, outreach, and teaching foundation at the University of Wyoming, IMAGINE offers a new model of engaged research and outreach to make a lasting difference against expanding infestations of annual grasses in Wyoming while integrating the socioeconomic drivers necessary for success. For Wyoming, the time for proactive management of invasive annual grasses is now. Visit our website for more information: wyagresearch.org/imagine

Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has several loan programs to help you start or continue an agriculture production. Farm ownership and operating loans are available. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants. A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere. For more information on FSA’s farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, contact your USDA Service Center at (307 682-8843 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.
Important Deadlines

May 30th- Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
June 20th- Office Closed in Observance of Juneteenth
July 4th- Office Closed in Observance of the 4th of July
July 15th- Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 15th- 2021 NAP Production Due

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**FSA County Committee:**

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Jody Cheser, Vice-Chairperson
Jake Boller, Member