Spring is upon us! That brings spring storms during calving and lambing season. Please remember the importance of good record keeping. Records are critical in the event that a disaster strikes, and you need to apply for assistance through the Livestock Indemnity Program. Please note that records for disaster events include the date(s) of the event(s), type of event(s), temperatures, wind speeds, and what losses you incurred. Remember to contact the FSA Office within 30 days of knowing that you have losses due to an eligible weather event for participation in the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). There is an article further in this bulletin on the LIP program.

With shearing season soon upon us, wool and mohair producers are reminded to stop by our office to apply for your loan deficiency payments (LDP). A CCC-633EZ page 1, Loan Deficiency Payment agreement and Request form, should be on file prior to shearing starting but before loss of ownership of the wool. Currently the LDP rate for wool is $.40 per pound and needs to be applied for before you lose beneficial interest in your wool. If you are delivering your wool to Center of the Nation you can either bring us a copy of your weight receipt or have it email it to us.

Carbon and Albany counties are eligible for the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for drought conditions. This program helps with the cost of hauling water to livestock and the cost of trucking additional feed in. You must notify the County Office within 30 days of beginning the water hauling, transport of additional feed, and/or transport of livestock to eligible and available grazing.

We do have sign up starting April 4, 2022, for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP-Grasslands). This signup will run until May 13, 2022, and the payment per acre for Carbon and Albany Counties are set at $13.00. I have included an additional article in this bulletin further explaining the program. If you have grassland that you would like to consider signing up for stop by our office for further information on this program.

Best wishes for a successful calving and lambing season. As always, I am here to serve your program needs.
Sheryl
**Assistance for Feed Transportation Costs**

In 2021, USDA updated ELAP policy to help cover the cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing. USDA has expanded the program to help ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling livestock to forage or other grazing acres. This includes places where:

- Drought intensity is D2 for eight consecutive weeks as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor;
- Drought intensity is D3 or greater; or
- USDA has determined a shortage of local or regional feed availability.

An [online tool](#) is now available to help ranchers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation costs caused by drought. [Download the tool](#). If you have questions, a [demonstration](#) video are available.

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.

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**Click to USDA Encourages Producers to Enroll in Grassland CRP**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages producers and landowners to enroll in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting next week through May 13, 2022. Grassland CRP provides a unique opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural landowners to keep land in agricultural production and supplement their income while improving their soils and permanent grass cover. The program had its highest enrollment in history in 2021 and is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s broader effort to equip producers with the tools they need to help address climate change and invest in the long-term health of our natural resources.

[Grassland CRP](#) is a federally funded voluntary working lands program. Through the program, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides annual rental payments to landowners to maintain and conserve grasslands while allowing producers to graze, hay, and produce seed on that land. Maintaining the existing permanent cover provides several benefits, including reducing erosion, providing wildlife habitat and migration corridors, and capturing and maintaining carbon in the soil and cover.

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. The annual rental rate varies by county with a national minimum rental rate of $13 per acre for this signup. Contract duration is 10 or 15 years.

**Grassland CRP National Priority Zones**

Because Grassland CRP supports not only grazing operations but also biodiversity and conserving environmentally sensitive land such as that prone to wind erosion, FSA created two [National Priority Zones](#) in 2021: the Greater Yellowstone Migration Corridor and Dust Bowl Zone. As part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s focus on conservation in important wildlife corridors and key seasonal ranges, for this year’s signup, FSA is expanding the Greater Yellowstone Wildlife Migration Corridor Priority Zone to include seven additional counties across Montana, Wyoming, and Utah, to help protect the big-game animal migration corridor associated with Wyoming elk, mule deer, and antelope.

Offers within one of these National Priority Zones will receive an additional 15 ranking points and $5 per acre if at least 50% of the offer is located in the zone.

Alongside Grassland CRP, producers and landowners can also enroll acres in Continuous CRP under the ongoing sign up, which includes projects available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE).

**Broadening Reach of Program**

As part of the Agency’s Justice40 efforts, producers and landowners who are historically underserved, including beginning farmers and military veterans, will receive 10 additional ranking points to enhance their offers.
Additionally, USDA is working to broaden the scope and reach of Grassland CRP by leveraging the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to engage historically underserved communities. CREP is a partnership program that enables states, Tribal governments, non-profit, and private entities to partner with FSA to implement CRP practices and address high priority conservation and environmental objectives. Interested entities are encouraged to contact FSA.

More Information on CRP

Landowners and producers interested in Grassland CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before the May 13 deadline. Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. The working lands signup announced today demonstrates how much it has evolved from the original program that was primarily intended to control soil erosion and only had the option to take enrolled land out of production. The program has expanded over the years and now supports a greater variety of conservation and wildlife benefits, along with the associated economic benefits.

Applying for FSA Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain, or strengthen their farm or ranch. Direct loans are processed, approved and serviced by FSA loan officers.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is $600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is $400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer’s ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

USDA to Provide Payments to Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that ranchers who have approved applications through the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire in 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021 through the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) new Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP).

Background

On September 30, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-43). This Act includes $10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. Additionally, the Act specifically targets $750 million to provide assistance to livestock producers for losses incurred due to drought or wildfires in calendar year 2021. ELRP is part of FSA’s implementation of the Act.

For impacted producers, USDA will leverage LFP data to deliver immediate relief for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021. LFP is an important tool that provides up to 60% of the estimated replacement feed cost
when an eligible drought adversely impacts grazing lands or 50% of the monthly feed cost for the number of
days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland because of a qualifying wildfire.
FSA received more than 100,000 applications totaling nearly $670 million in payments to livestock producers under LFP for the 2021 program year.
Congress recognized requests for assistance beyond this existing program and provided specific funding for
disaster-impacted livestock producers in 2021.

ELRP Eligibility – Phase One
To be eligible for an ELRP payment under phase one of program delivery, livestock producers must have
suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight
consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the 2021 calendar year
and have applied and been approved for 2021 LFP. Additionally, producers whose permitted grazing on
federally managed lands was disallowed due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP payments, if they applied and
were approved for 2021 LFP.
As part of FSA's efforts to streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP phase one benefits, producers are not
required to submit an application for payment; however, they must have the following forms on file with FSA
within a subsequently announced deadline as determined by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs:

• CCC-853, Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application
• Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
• Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.
• Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable).
• Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the $125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if
  applicable).
• Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher
  Certification, if applicable, for the 2021 program year.
• A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation
certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC)
Certification) for the ELRP producer and applicable affiliates.

ELRP Payment Calculation – Phase One
To further expedite payments to eligible livestock producers, determine eligibility, and calculate an ELRP phase
one payment, FSA will utilize livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units
and grazing days due to wildfire already reported by the producer when they submitted a 2021 CCC-853,
Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application form.
Phase one ELRP payments will be equal to the eligible livestock producer’s gross 2021 LFP calculated payment
multiplied by a payment percentage, to reach a reasonable approximation of increased supplemental feed costs
for eligible livestock producers in 2021.
The ELRP payment percentage will be 90% for historically underserved producers, including beginning, limited
resource, and veteran farmers and ranchers, and 75% for all other producers. These payments will be subject to
a payment limitation.
To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have a CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged,
Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, form on file with FSA for the 2021
program year.
Payments to eligible producers through phase one of ELRP are estimated to total more than $577 million.

ELRP - Phase Two
Today's announcement is only Phase One of relief for livestock producers. FSA continues to evaluate and identify impacts of 2021 drought and wildfire on livestock producers to ensure equitable and inclusive distribution of much-needed emergency relief program benefits.