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## Highlights from Sheryl

If you received an Emergency Relief Program (ERP) application in the mail, these were auto mailed from our national office. These were sent to producers who had crop insurance indemnities on eligible crops in 2020 and/or 2021 or eligible Non-Insurable Assistance Program losses in 2020 and/or 2021. There currently is not an application deadline for this program; however, one can be announced at any time.



If you have NAP coverage, you must notify the county office within 15 days of that loss being apparent to you. **If you will not be harvesting hay on any/all of your meadows make sure the contact the office prior to turning livestock out to graze as an appraisal must be completed before livestock can be turned out!**

Due to qualifying drought conditions, producers in both Carbon and Albany counties may be eligible for grazing losses under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). I have started taking applications and the deadline to apply is January 30, 2023. Carbon County became eligible on January 1<sup>st</sup> and Albany County became eligible on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

We are providing cost-share with water hauling, transportation of additional feed, and/or transportation of livestock to available feed due to the qualifying drought conditions in both Carbon and Albany counties. More information on these benefits can be found in the article about the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) in this newsletter.

As always, please be sure to let the office know about any changes to your operation!

Important Dates:

NAP- Notice of Loss deadline within 15 days of loss being apparent

ELAP and LIP- Notice of Loss deadline within 30 days of loss being apparent

August 1<sup>st</sup>- submit nominations for County Committee

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## Disaster Assistance for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Carbon and Albany Counties are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on non-irrigated native pasture and improved pasture.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.



County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2023, for 2022 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657, [sheryl.hunter@usda.gov](mailto:sheryl.hunter@usda.gov), or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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## FSA Offers Drought Assistance for Livestock Producers Through Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

If you've suffered above normal expenses for hauling feed or water to livestock or hauling livestock to forage/grazing acres due to the impacts of drought, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).



For eligible producers in qualifying counties, ELAP provides financial assistance for:

- the transportation of water to livestock;
- the above normal cost of mileage for transporting feed to livestock,
- the above normal cost of transporting livestock to forage/grazing acres.\*

*\*Hauling livestock one-way, one haul per animal reimbursement and no payment for "empty miles."*

Eligible livestock include cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep, among others, that are maintained for commercial use and located in a county where the qualifying drought conditions occur. A county must have had D2 severe drought intensity on the U.S. Drought Monitor for eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period, or D3 or D4 drought intensity at any time during the normal grazing period. Producers must have risk in both eligible livestock and eligible grazing land in an eligible county to qualify for ELAP assistance.

### WATER TRANSPORTATION

For ELAP water transportation assistance, a producer must be transporting water to eligible livestock on eligible grazing land where the producer had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities in place before the drought occurred and where they do not normally require the transportation of water. Payments are for costs associated with personal labor, equipment, hired labor, equipment, and/or contracted water transportation fees. Cost of the water itself is not covered. The ELAP payment formula uses a national average price per gallon.

### ABOVE NORMAL COSTS OF TRANSPORTING FEED

ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who incur above normal expenses for transporting feed to livestock during drought. The payment formula excludes the first 25 miles and any mileage over 1,000 miles. The reimbursement rate is 60% of the costs above what would normally have been incurred during the same time period in a normal (non-drought) year. **ABOVE NORMAL COSTS OF TRANSPORTING LIVESTOCK TO FORAGE/GRAZING ACRES**

ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who are hauling livestock to a new location for feed resources due to insufficient feed and/or grazing in drought-impacted areas. Assistance for Livestock transportation is retroactive to 2021 and available for 2022 and subsequent years. **Please contact your county FSA office for additional details.**

For calendar year 2022 forward, producers must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office **within 30 calendar days** of when the loss is apparent; producers should contact their county FSA office as soon as the loss of water resources or feed resources are known. For ELAP eligibility, documentation of expenses is critical. Producers should maintain records and receipts associated with the costs of transporting water to eligible livestock, the costs of transporting feed to eligible livestock, and the costs of transporting eligible livestock to forage/grazing acres.

ELAP also offers assistance to producers impacted by wildfire. Contact your county FSA office for more information on ELAP resources for wildfire losses. In addition, beekeepers also can benefit from ELAP provisions and should contact their county FSA office within 15 calendar days of when a loss occurs or from when the loss is apparent. For more information regarding ELAP, contact your Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657 ext 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://fsa.usda.gov/disaster).

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## Carbon/Albany County Producers Have Until Aug. 1 to Submit FSA County Committee Nominations

Farmers and ranchers have until Aug. 1, 2022, to nominate candidates to serve on the Carbon/Albany County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) accepts nominations each year in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAAs) for individuals to serve on these locally led committees.



This year, Carbon/Albany County is accepting nominations for LAA 1, which includes the Medicine Bow Conservation District Area and LAA4, all land located in Township 20 and north in Albany County. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote, and hold office.

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election, including if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign an [FSA-669A](#) nomination form. Urban farmers should use an [FSA-669-A-3](#) for urban county committees. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7, 2022.

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## Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

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.

To receive payment, you had to purchase NAP coverage for 2022 crops and file a notice of loss the earlier of 15 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.

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 the Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657, [sheryl.hunter@usda.gov](mailto:sheryl.hunter@usda.gov), or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://fsa.usda.gov/nap).

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# Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans for operating loan or farm ownership loan purposes.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

For more information, contact the Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657 x2 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or [www.farmers.gov/fund](http://www.farmers.gov/fund).



## Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center

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### Farm Service Agency

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### County Committee

Ryan Wilson, Chair  
Cheryl Munroe, Vice-chair  
Mary Ann Boles, Member  
Robin Carter, Member  
Darcy Kaisler, Member

### Natural Resource Conservation Service

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