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The eligible or “noninsured” crops include agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance.  You must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop **in the crop year in which the loss incurred** to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.  **NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option**  NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Buy-up levels of NAP coverage are available if the producer can show at least one year of previously successfully growing the crop for which coverage is being requested.  Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production.  NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.  Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.  **NAP Service Fees**  For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.  **NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans**  Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.  Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, “Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.”  For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, contact your County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnap%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514503497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5byehrK9E6logsX0%2B9U8%2FzKmtUvAigDIDu4m8%2BBQE0o%3D&reserved=0). Elections for the 2022 County Committee Voting is now open for the USDA’s Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Fremont County Committee.  It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2022 election in Fremont County will be conducted for the representative for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3:  Lander, Jeffrey City, Dubois, everything south and west of the Wind River Reservation  County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture in Fremont County. This means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.  Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.  County committee election ballots were mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7, 2022. The last day to return completed ballots to the Fremont County USDA Service Center is Dec. 5, 2022.  For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fnews-room%2Fcounty-committee-elections%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514503497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=imuRDPrZW66ZR0wL2wR%2BsDQ9y4wqxAKI%2BUXZgoSITfg%3D&reserved=0). FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans The USDA Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Ffarm-ownership-loans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514503497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FskEw8tAWPQjSY2P3nqsilN1t5MoVuifQ5WsOmqpJ0E%3D&reserved=0) can help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.  There are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Ffarm-loan-programs%2Fmicroloans%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514503497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ap%2BVKej%2BKDrmPsnNgTp0dhX8LxmqPXh5XKPJwTs%2BMyQ%3D&reserved=0) option for smaller financial needs up to $50,000.  Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a joint financing loan is $600,000, and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.  The operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.  For more information about farm loans, contact your Fremont County USDA Service Center at 307-856-7524 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BVAW0ajkqlbU1enCRc0ysU3%2B%2FQYmj%2BjKEwZt1oRUO0o%3D&reserved=0). Cover Crops Play a Starring Role in Climate Change Mitigation On your own land, you’ve probably seen evidence that climate change is happening – things like extreme weather events or changes in growing seasons over the years. America’s rural communities are on the frontlines of climate change, and now is the time for agriculture, forestry, and rural communities to act.  There are various ways to help mitigate the effects of climate change on your land and improve your bottom line at the same time. One very effective way is by planting cover crops.  Cover crops offer agricultural producers a natural and inexpensive climate solution through their ability to capture atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) into soils. But cover crops don’t just remove CO2 from the atmosphere, they also help make your soil healthier and your crops more resilient to a changing climate.  Healthy soil has better water infiltration and water holding capacity and is less susceptible to erosion from wind and water.  Cover crops also trap excess nitrogen – keeping it from leaching into groundwater or running off into surface water – releasing it later to feed growing crops. This saves you money on inputs like water and fertilizer and makes your crops more able to survive in harsh conditions.  **USDA’s Cover Crop Support**  During the past year, USDA has made a number of strides to encourage use of cover crops. Earlier this month, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) formed a [new partnership with Farmers For Soil Health](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fdetail%2Fnational%2Fnewsroom%2Freleases%2F%3Fcid%3DNRCSEPRD1867846%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0fxU2U6x0QrdRU7En7sCi3jf5hxnKWqGcbU3a1mJMJc%3D&reserved=0). We also launched a new Cover Crop Initiative in 11 states through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), targeted $38 million to help producers mitigate climate change through adoption of cover crops.  In fiscal 2021, NRCS provided technical and financial assistance to help producers plant 2.3 million acres of cover crops through EQIP.  We’ve also recognized the importance of supporting cover crops through crop insurance. USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently provided $59.5 million in premium support for producers who planted cover crops on 12.2 million acres through the new [Pandemic Cover Crop Program](https://www.farmers.gov/cover-crops?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). Additionally, RMA recently updated policy to allow producers with crop insurance to [hay, graze or chop cover crops](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rma.usda.gov%2FNews-Room%2FPress%2FNational-News-Archive%2F2021-News%2F2021-News%2FProducers-Can-Now-Hay-Graze-and-Chop-Cover-Crops-and-Still-Receive-Full-Prevented-Planting-Paymnt%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E9k0foIjPRGVbu%2FVJ1zdYbGaPLagEgUhf3sxwJOZVPs%3D&reserved=0) at any time and still receive 100% of the prevented planting payment. This policy change supports use of cover crops, which can help producers build resilience to drought. [Visit RMA’s Conservation webpage to learn more](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frma.usda.gov%2FTopics%2FConservation%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PrEC4%2BB79BiyIJK8SLwswP1Dnlhcij9O4MdgdZWNOeE%3D&reserved=0).  Working together, we can lead the way through climate-smart solutions that will improve the profitability and resilience of producers and foresters, open new market opportunities, and build wealth that stays in rural communities.  Our support for cover crops are part of a much broader effort at USDA to address climate change. To learn more, read [USDA’s January 18, 2022 news release](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/01/18/us-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-highlights-key-work-2021?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  Cover crops are not only good for rural communities, but also for urban areas. Late last year, the [NRCS National Plant Materials Center planted cover crops](https://www.farmers.gov/blog/cover-crops-benefit-both-commercial-farmers-and-urban-gardeners?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) in the urban garden in front of USDA’s Washington, D.C. Headquarters. See how cover crops are also great for the urban farmer or backyard gardener.  To learn more, visit [farmers.gov/conserve/soil-health](http://www.farmers.gov/conserve/soil-health?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), watch our Conservation at Work video on cover crops, or contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). USDA Commits to Big Game Conservation Partnership with the State of Wyoming: Initial Investments Forthcoming **USDA** announced a new partnership that uses diverse Farm Bill investments to support voluntary conservation of private working lands and migratory big game populations in Wyoming. Using lessons learned from this pilot, USDA seeks to scale up this model across the West as part of President Biden’s commitment to support voluntary, locally-led conservation efforts to reach the administration’s national conservation goals.  USDA participated in extensive engagement and listening sessions with stakeholders throughout Wyoming and developed this pilot in response to their feedback. Those listening sessions helped guide the project’s concepts and principles: recognition of the large scale of this issue in key landscapes, coordination with state agencies, consistency with state policy and direction and support of existing partnerships wherever possible.  The pilot will take a systems approach to voluntary conservation and draw on several USDA programs, including the [Grassland Conservation Reserve Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2Fprograms-and-services%2Fconservation-programs%2Fcrp-grasslands%2Findex%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1iei011%2FrAY5JdYy%2FyzoLk%2BncgKnVtRCFs9H4Cqk09E%3D&reserved=0) (Grassland CRP), [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fdetail%2Fnational%2Fprograms%2Ffinancial%2Feqip%2F%3Fcid%3Dstelprdb1044009%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=c4wSbsuwLPe%2FvEZGShgt3wsEYHiYNG3Rs9z7sAApOok%3D&reserved=0) (EQIP), the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fdetail%2Fnational%2Fprograms%2Ffinancial%2Frcpp%2F%3Fcid%3Dstelprdb1242732%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TS4PrX0XHgSgXjkDBSqFRSpT2hYWJonxKG6lgRinopA%3D&reserved=0) (RCPP) and the [Agricultural Conservation Easements Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fdetail%2Fnational%2Fprograms%2Feasements%2Facep%2F%3Fcid%3Dstelprdb1242695%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YnDKqvyNkr9%2BI64vo54BlFhVOMGsHMRWZ8LpBPm6%2FzE%3D&reserved=0) (ACEP) to provide financial and technical assistance for landowners who want to participate. USDA is committing an initial $15 million in investment through EQIP and ACEP for Wyoming, in addition to the rental payments that will go to producers who enroll in Grasslands CRP. There are three distinct conservation areas that USDA will invest in using these voluntary and incentive-based programs. All are designed to help willing landowners and their partners conserve private lands for the benefit of migratory big game populations. They include:   * **Agricultural Land Protection** – Preventing the conversion of private working lands that provide habitat and other values for migratory big game populations to alternative land uses not compatible with big game migrations. Specifically, this would include preventing actions like residential subdivision, mining and development of commercial wind and solar facilities on private lands. Additional resources will be provided to Wyoming for Agricultural Land Easements through the ACEP (ACEP-ALE) for this effort, as well as prioritization of big game conservation through RCPP. * **Restoration, Enhancement and Management** – Restoring and managing working lands to provide a variety of healthy habitats migrating animals need to meet their life history requirements. Habitat quality can be improved in many ways including but not limited to the control of invasive species, restoration of degraded aspens, removal of encroached woodlands and restoration of wet meadows. Ensuring compatibility with fences used for managing working lands and migrating animals is also a top priority. Today, USDA is announcing an additional $5 million in FY22 resources through the EQIP for Wyoming to specifically support these needs. These resources are a significant addition to the State’s current FY22 EQIP allocation of over $16 million. * **Conservation Leases** - Managing working lands in a way that ensures the resiliency of the desired habitat conditions is extremely important to migrating big game as they rely upon healthy lands to meet their diverse seasonal habitat needs. Providing annual financial incentives to landowners through a conservation lease can help encourage the long-term management that results in resiliency. The 10- to 15-year contracts through the Grassland CRP are being used to fulfill this need. To date, USDA has committed $32.3 million ($2.3 million paid to landowners annually) to conserve over 170,000 acres through Grassland CRP in Wyoming with additional enrollments to be announced from this year’s signup in the coming weeks. For this year’s signup, USDA piloted policy changes to make it easier for producers to access multiple programs. USDA will continue to work with partners to tailor the program to meet the state’s needs before next year’s signup.   For more information, landowners can contact USDA at their local [USDA Service Center](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). On farmers.gov, landowners can [create a secure account](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/sign-in?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), apply for NRCS programs, electronically sign documents and manage their conservation contracts. Apply for Livestock Forage Losses Producers are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits.  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 your Fremont County USDA Service Center at 307-856-7524 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsa.usda.gov%2F%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ce463a2ab640e4e4afe1608dacd8c4049%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638048299514659767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BVAW0ajkqlbU1enCRc0ysU3%2B%2FQYmj%2BjKEwZt1oRUO0o%3D&reserved=0). | |  | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  USDA Service Center Fremont County  508 N. Broadway Ave. Riverton, WY 82501  Phone: 307-856-7524 x 2 Fax: 855-415-3439   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **County Executive Director:**  Ashley Simpson 307-856-7524 x 2 [ashley.simpson@usda.gov](mailto:ashley.simpson@usda.gov) | **Farm Loan Manager:**  Brian Harrell 307-240-3199 [brian.harrell@usda.gov](mailto:brian.harrell@usda.gov) | | **Program Technician:**  Tracy Givens 307-856-7524 x 2 [tracy.givens@usda.gov](mailto:tracy.givens@usda.gov) | **Farm Loan Program Technician:**  Maire Walsh 307-856-7524 x 2 [maire.walsh@usda.gov](mailto:maire.walsh@usda.gov) | | **Program Technician:**  Ashley Anglen 307-856-7524 x 2 [ashley.anglen@usda.gov](mailto:ashley.anglen@usda.gov) | **County Committee Members for Fremont:**  Jim Hellyer - Chairperson Stan Horton - Vice Chairperson Emmi O'Neal - Voting Member | | **District Conservationist -**  Eric Watson 307-240-3202 [eric.watson@usda.gov](mailto:eric.watson@usda.gov) | **District Conservationist - Tribal Liaison**  Jake Hogan 307-332-9636[jake.hogan@usda.gov](mailto:jake.hogan@usda.gov) | | | |