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From Pam's Desk

As we move into the new year, we want to remind you to stay on top of your FSA business. Before you gear up for calving or farming, stop by the office to make sure you are up to date on the following programs.

ARC/PLC Enrollment: For our crop producers, now is a good time of year to review your options related to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. ARC and PLC are the key safety net programs for commodity crop production, and the election and enrollment period for next year's production season is now open through March 15, 2023.

We have a large number of you to get through this process by the March 15 deadline, so please get an appointment scheduled if you don't already have one by calling our office.

As we move get into severe winter weather, our office wants to remind livestock producers of the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. LIP provides financial assistance for losses of eligible livestock, above normal mortality rates, due to eligible adverse weather. Please remember that losses must be reported to our office within 30 days of when those livestock losses are apparent. You can do that through a phone call to our office.

We also continue to implement the **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** and the **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)**. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides financial assistance to livestock producers who have grazing land that has been impacted by drought. Producers must have eligible grazing livestock and eligible grazing land (so either own the acres or have a risk in leased acres). Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to producers who have suffered above normal expenses for hauling feed or water to livestock or hauling livestock to new forage/grazing acres due to the impacts of drought. Please note, you must contact our office within 30 days of when you become aware of a loss that can be covered by this program, so as soon as you identify the need to haul supplemental feed or water, you should contact us. The application deadline to receive benefits for 2022 losses for both these programs is Jan. 30, 2022. While that may seem like plenty of time, we have many folks to get through the application process, so please contact us sooner rather than later regarding these programs.

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



Important Dates:

ELAP, LFP and LIP- 2022 applications must be complete by January 30, 2023

-Pam Metz

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 Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Deadline Approaching for 2022 Drought Assistance Through Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Producers in Platte County are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on grazing acres. The deadline to apply for 2022 losses is Jan. 30, 2023.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned land, leased land where the producer has risk in the grazing or fire on federally managed land.

FSA county committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is provided from FSA headquarters of qualifying drought conditions as determined by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing livestock on normally permitted federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

Click [here](#) for a list of counties that are eligible for LFP. This list is updated weekly. Producers must complete a CCC-853 and provide the required supporting documentation before program benefits can be determined and issued.

For additional information about LFP, including eligibility criteria for producers and livestock, and information about how the U.S. Drought Monitor is used to determine county eligibility, contact the Platte county FSA office at 307-322-4050 or visit farmers.gov/recover.

USDA Issues Additional Pandemic Assistance Payments for Underserved Producers

Those Without Underserved Designation Have Until Feb. 10 to File CCC-860

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently making automatic Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) top-up payments to underserved farmers and ranchers. Payments will be based on the 2020 program certification on form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification.



Producers who have not previously certified to their status for the 2020 program year have until Feb. 10, 2023, to submit form CCC-860 to be eligible for the additional payments. Contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) for more information.

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. 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, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 x2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

What are Your 2023 Conservation Resolutions?



With the new year, it's time to start thinking about what you want to work on in 2023. Setting goals and resolutions can be hard, but the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is here to help!

If you would like to make a Conservation Resolution for 2023, here are some options to consider:

- Incorporate cover crops into your operation.
- Extend your growing season by using a high tunnel.
- Improve your soil health by utilizing no-till practices.
- Provide recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat by restoring wetlands.
- Reduce input costs by focusing on nutrient management.
- Protect topsoil and groundwater quality by devoting environmentally sensitive agricultural land to conservation benefits instead of farming.

Resolutions can be daunting and hard to stick to, but here are some tips for how to make them successful.

- **Make a plan-** To get started on your #ConservationResolutions, we recommend you stop by your [local USDA service center](#), so we can discuss your vision for your land. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide you with free technical assistance and or advice.
- **Don't do it alone-** USDA's conservation programs available through NRCS and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) give you the tools and resources to protect environmentally sensitive land and restore grasslands, wetlands, and forests, which leads to cleaner water and air, healthier soil, and enhanced wildlife habitat. We can also help with financial assistance to help you achieve your #ConservationResolutions
- **See what other landowners are doing** -Learn about the benefits of conservation practices directly from the farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners applying them with our series of 90-second videos. Explore the different types of conservation practices by watching our [Conservation at Work series](#). You can also read producer profiles on [gov](#).

Dates To Remember

Jan. 30, 2023 – FSA deadline for applications for Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) benefits for 2022 losses

Jan. 31, 2023 – FSA deadline for producers to apply for a 2022 LDP for wool and unshorn pelts

Jan. 31, 2023 – FSA deadline for producers to apply for Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) for 2022 benefits

Feb. 20, 2023 – USDA Service Centers closed for federal holiday

March 15, 2023 – FSA Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) Program deadline for elections and enrollment for 2023 production season

April 1, 2023 – ***FSA application closing date for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2022 production season for millet, oats, forage sorghum, and any other spring/summer seeded crop without crop insurance coverage available.



USDA Service Center

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Heather Ferguson-Ultima

County Committee:
Amy Miller
Dareth Smialek
Chuck Maike

Next County Committee Meeting:
February 16th at 10:00am