

March 20, 2015



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Belmont/Monroe County FSA Updates

Belmont/Monroe County Report Livestock Losses

FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Christy Collins

Program Technician:
Tina Pittman
Karri Kovalick, Temporary

Farm Loan Managers:
Belmont County:
Sam Raber
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Monroe County:
David Drake
Phone: 740-454-2824

County Committee:

Dale Dietrich, Chair
Stephen Wharton, Vice Chair
Barbara Ackerman

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file

Stanley Borovich
Charles Schaefer
Louella Urbanek, Advisor

both of the following:

Next County Committee Meeting: April 6, 2015 at 9 a.m.

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016
- An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

Additional information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or read the [LIP fact sheet](#).

FSA Microloans Available up to \$50,000

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers that the FSA borrowing limit for microloans increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Microloans offer borrowers simplified lending with less paperwork.

The microloan change allows beginning, small and mid-sized farmers to access an additional \$15,000 in loans using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay.

To complement the microloan program additional changes to FSA eligibility requirements will enhance beginning farmers access to land, a key barrier to entry level producers. FSA policies related to farm experience have changed so that other types of skills may be considered to meet the direct farming experience required for farm ownership loan eligibility. Operation or management of non-farm businesses, leadership positions while serving in the military or advanced education in an agricultural field will now count towards the experience applicants need to show when applying for farm ownership loans.

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$50,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses.

Individuals interested in applying for a FSA [microloan](#) or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact their local one of the Farm Loan Program Managers listed on the left above.

Suspension of MAL's and LDP's for Mohair

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 was enacted into law on December 16, 2014. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Section 724 **excludes** funding for mohair Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) for the balance of Fiscal Year 2015. Because MAL's are no longer available for mohair, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for mohair are also **not** available. The suspension is effective through September 30, 2015.

Sorghum Referendum March 23 – April 21, 2015

The Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than seven years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. For the program to continue, a majority of those voting must favor the continuation of the order.

USDA will conduct the referendum beginning on March 23, 2015, through April 21, 2015, at county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office for importers. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from January 1, 2011, to December

or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff Program, and its 13-member board, is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The Sorghum Checkoff is intended to be a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

For more information, contact Craig Shackelford, Marketing Specialist, Research and Promotion Division, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, 22 Jamesport Lane, White, GA 30184; Telephone: (470) 315-4246; craig.shackelford@ams.usda.gov. Procedures and additional information about the referendum can be found at: www.ams.usda.gov/SorghumReferendum.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).