

April 2014



Disaster Program Information

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin administering two programs that were recently approved in the 2014 Farm Bill. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire.

LFP payments for drought are paid an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of: the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent of 15.7 pounds of corn per day for an adult beef cow; or the monthly feed (grazing) cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land or pastureland. Crook County was rated as a D3 drought disaster designation in the Drought Monitor for both years 2012 and 2013. As a result, payments will be issued equivalent to four monthly payments for each year that is signed up.

LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Applications must contain supporting documents that show evidence of grazed crop acreages and livestock types and numbers. Grazed acreage documentation includes: Evidence that grazing land is owned or leased or Report of acreage (FSA 578 crop report). Livestock documentation includes documents that list beginning inventories for claimed livestock. Documentation submitted should be verifiable – meaning that the document can be verified as accurate by a third party (Bank balance/inventory sheets is one example of verifiable evidence). Livestock that are sold (mitigated) due to drought conditions are eligible for inclusion on an application. Evidence to support the sale of such animals must be provided.

To be eligible for program payments under LFP eligible producers DO NOT have to purchase crop insurance through a private crop insurance agent or NAP through FSA for eligible losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011.

The Livestock Indemnity Payment program (LIP) provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and/or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. (Attack by animals must be documented by the controlling authority for the protected attack animal). LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock.

An eligible livestock owner must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock death loss occurred. Eligible livestock includes: Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Bison, Sheep, Swine, Horses, and Other livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Participants must provide documentation of livestock deaths by any one or a combination of the following means: 1/ Verifiable records which include, veterinarian records, production records, FEMA records, private insurance documents; 2/ Reliable records which include producers contemporaneous records/diaries/daily journal entries existing at the time of the event, supplemented if possible by such items as: dated photographs or video; or 3/ Third Party certification (eligible third party certifications are an independent source who is not affiliated with the ranching operation. Hired hands or family members are affiliated with the ranching operation and are not eligible to provide third party certifications). Death loss documentation must include the date of death, cause of death, and the number and

kind/type/weight range of livestock that have died.

Participants must provide documentation of livestock inventory by submitting verifiable or reliable records which include, but is not limited to; purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents, balance sheets, chattel inspections, written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, brand inspection papers, private insurance documents, or contemporaneous diaries. Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies the kind/type/weight range and number of livestock.

Sign-up is scheduled to begin on April 15, 2014, at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center at 117 S. 21st Street in Sundance. We will NOT be sending out appointment cards for these disaster programs. Producers can call the office at 283-2870 to make an appointment. Producers who walk-in the office without an appointment will be assisted as time allows as we will also be taking spring planted crop reports from appointments with producers who have planted spring crops. Additionally, while we don't expect a lot of participation in the LIP program there will be some activity. Between the crop reports, signup for two years in LFP and possibly the same for LIP your time here at the office will be very busy. All the more reason for appointments so that folks don't have to stand at the counter for several hours before they are assisted. Also, Producers should call prior to visiting the office to receive more information of program requirements so as to minimize or prevent return trips to complete an application.

The signup deadline is January 30, 2015. There are no late-filed provisions applicable to either LFP or LIP. Applications received after the deadline will not be approved. It is our desire to enroll as many as possible participants within the first two and a half months (from April 15 to June 30, 2014) to expedite the payment process. However, all supporting documentation and required forms must be submitted before payment can be issued so, payment in these programs is dependent on the individual producer's timeliness in submitting all required program documents. Remember, both calendar years 2012 and 2013 are eligible for payments under the LFP program so gather documentation accordingly. If you wish to sign up for these programs please make the appointment matter a priority. Call us soon, get the appointment scheduled, gather your documentation and we'll see you in the office.

Questions?

Please contact the Crook County FSA Office staff at (307) 283-2870 Ext. 2, for more information. You may also contact Mike Idler at mike.idler@wy.usda.gov

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