

November 2013



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Next County Committee Meeting: December 6, 2013 at 9:00 AM/PM

County Committee Members:
Blair Hillstead
Jason Thornock
Chad Dana
Trudi Julian

County Committee Elections

This year's County Committee Election is being held for the Upper Valley Administrative Area, where Blair Hillstead is currently serving as the representative to county committee.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 4th. Instructions for voting will be included. Completed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 2nd. Ballots will be counted on December 6th at 9 AM. Please take time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee. Newly elected committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2014.

2013 NAP Losses

For those of you with a NAP crop policy - you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a Notice of Loss form (CCC-576) with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence (such as hail, flood, etc.) or from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. When a loss is sustained an appraisal may be required to ensure that you are receiving the best benefit from your policy. **Appraisals must be performed prior to grazing!**

2014 NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which

CAT is not available.

December 1, 2013 is the application deadline for fall seeded grain crops and perennial crops (grazing land and grass hay) for 2014 NAP coverage. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Producers who already had coverage on 2013 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2014, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new Application for Coverage (CCC-471) is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay is required.
- File a Notice of Loss form (CCC-576) within 15 days of when a loss is apparent due to hail, flood, drought, etc.

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses can prevent loss of many FSA program benefits and is a requirement of many FSA programs.

Please note the following acreage reporting deadlines:

Perennial Forage, Perennial Rangeland Forage (PRF), Native Range, Fall Wheat and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains - **November 15, 2013**

Spring Barley, corn, Forage Seeding, Spring Oats, spring Wheat, and all other crops not listed - **July 15, 2014**

We will be taking acreage reports at the Cokeville Town Hall on November 12th and 13th. Appointments will be mailed again this year, however if you have any program questions please feel free to stop and take advantage of our presence!

2013 Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Signup

Due to drought conditions that persisted in 2013, Lincoln County is approved for water hauling (EC7) and well drilling (EC6) applications for cost share at this time; however, the program is NOT funded. This means that filing an application does not guarantee cost-share assistance. Application sign-up period is **November 4 to December 20, 2013**. Please contact the office for more information.

Water Hauling: National Office has implemented interim rules for water hauling. Please be aware of the following policies that differ from last year's program:

- Cost-share will be limited to 50% of actual cost not to exceed a specified rate for all temporary practices and 75% for permanent practices.
- Water hauling will be calculated as 50% of actual cost not to exceed \$0.02 per gallon of calculated water needs. Water needs will be calculated on expected consumption per 1000 pound live animal weight.

Beef	18 gallons/day/1000lbs
Sheep/Goats	20 gallons/day/1000lbs
Horses	10 gallons/day/1000lbs

Cost-share assistance will not be approved for the following circumstances:

- If water has been hauled to a specific (field, pasture, etc) 3 out of the last 10 years.
- Water hauling that has not occurred yet, but is anticipated is not eligible.

- Water must have been available previous to the drought. If you are hauling water to utilize a pasture that is not normally grazed due to lack of water, water hauling will not be eligible for cost-share.
- Water hauling to earthen pits, reservoirs etc are not eligible for cost-share.
- Water hauled prior to July 1, 2013 is not eligible for cost-share.

Well Drilling: Well drilling practices are also available for cost-share assistance under 2013 ECP for drought. Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Must have had adequate livestock watering system prior to the drought.
- Eligible components can include: installing pipe to another water source, water storage tanks/troughs, drilling or deepening wells, permanently installed submersible pump, solar panels.
- Water facilities primarily for barns, corrals, recreations and/or headquarters are not eligible for cost-share assistance.
- Practices must be maintained for 10 years.
- Cost-share rate for permanent practices is 75% of actual costs, not to exceed a pre-specified \$ per unit.

Please remember that filing an application does not guarantee cost-share assistance.

Microloan Program Available

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 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. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

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).