



NEWSLETTER



Niobrara County Service Center

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October 2011

Fence Losses Due to Fire

Producers may be eligible for benefits under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) if they had fences damaged or destroyed by wildfire. Niobrara County has been approved for the ECP and signup is underway and will continue through October 31.

The objective of ECP is to provide cost share assistance to producers who have suffered severe damage to their farmland because of a natural disaster. The damage must be of such magnitude that it would be too costly for the producer to rehabilitate without federal assistance.

Permanent fence cost shares are paid based on the age of the fence as follows:

Up to five years old	- 100% of computed cost share
6 – 10 years old	- 75% of computed cost share
11 – 30 years old	- 60% of computed cost share
Over 30 years old	- Zero

If a fence has been in place for 30 or more years, but some components have been replaced the value will be determined on the average age of the components.

No funds have been allocated at this time, however we still encourage you to file an application during the signup period if you suffered a loss that meets the objective of the Emergency Conservation Program.

Grazing Losses Due to Fire or Hail

Livestock producers may be eligible for benefits under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) if they have suffered grazing losses or incurred additional feed expenses due to the wildfires and hail storms this year. To be eligible, producers must have purchased NAP or Federal Crop Insurance coverage on all crops intended for harvest (excluding grazing). Producers that suffer eligible losses must file:

-A notice of loss either 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred – whichever is earlier.

-An application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

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.

The application deadline date for the 2012 NAP coverage for perennial and biennial forage crops and fall seeded crops is December 1, 2011.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage 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 previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Now is also a good time to report your 2011 crop production for forage crops to establish an actual production history (APH).

Natural Resource Conservation Service

The NRCS is currently taking applications for 2012 EQIP projects. Project possibilities range from livestock water improvements, cross-fencing, conversion of annually tilled cropland to permanent grass, and irrigation improvements. We are also taking applications for the Wetland Reserve Program which helps with wetland restoration and enhancement. The batching date has not been set but is expected to be in early November, please stop in soon if you are interested in either program.

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Important Dates to Remember	
October 10	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
October 31	Final Day to apply for ECP
Within 15 days of noticing Loss	File CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss

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