



NEWSLETTER



Niobrara County Service Center

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October 2014

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

Producers are reminded of the following disaster program signups. The application deadline for both programs is January 30, 2015, but we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible to set up an appointment.

The **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to a five month period (depending on drought severity). Based on the severity of the drought in 2012 and its lingering effects in 2013 Niobrara County livestock producers are eligible for payments for both years. Applicants will need to provide documentation of grazing acres and documents that show livestock inventory numbers.

The **Livestock Indemnity Payment Program (LIP)** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered 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, including wolves and avian predators. 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 as determined by the Secretary.

Eligible livestock for both programs includes: Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Bison, Sheep, Swine, Horses, and Other Livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture that are maintained for commercial use as part of a farming or ranching operation.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

The deadline is nearing for producers to certify their 2015 acreage for permanent and fall seeded crops. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Crop acreage reports must be certified by the **November 17, 2014** for permanent and fall seeded crops.

NAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application signup deadline to obtain Non-Insurance Program (NAP) coverage for the 2015 crop year for fall seeded crops or biennial and perennial crop such as grass hay or range is **December 1, 2014**. The application fee is \$250 per crop/pay type. Coverage is offered at 50% of the approved yield and 55% of the posted price. The intent of the program is to provide yield protection in the event of catastrophic loss due to natural disaster.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and wish to file a program complaint must contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) must contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COC ELECTION

COC Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 in early November and must be returned to the county office by the close of business or postmarked by midnight **December 1, 2014**. LAA 1 covers the southwest portion of the county. If you are an eligible voter in LAA1 and you do not receive a ballot or you are not sure which LAA you reside in, please contact the office.

Important Dates to Remember	
November 11	Veteran's Day – Office Closed
November 17	Crop Reporting Deadline
November 27	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
December 1	NAP Application for Coverage Deadline
December 1	Final Day to return COC Election Ballots
Within 15 days of noticing Loss	File CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
 PO BOX 720
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