



United States Department of Agriculture

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801

(307)672-5846 Ext. 2
Fax: 866-574-1670

Toll Free Number:
1-866-262-4396

Johnson County Office Day:
First Wednesday of each month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center
621 Fetterman Street
Buffalo, WY 82834
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 104

FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED
Janice Wheeler, PT
Ro Todd, Temp. PT
Peggy Swart, Temp. PT

County Committee Members:

William White, Chairperson
Steve Schuette, Vice Chairperson
Susan Moyes, Regular Member
Raymon Turk, Regular Member
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member

Dates to Remember:

October 1, 2014 – deadline to lock in the zero percent sequestration rate for LFP.

October 13, 2014 –Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed

November 1, 2014 – Deadline to file 2014 ELAP Notice of Loss/Application for Payment

November 4, 2014 – COC election ballots mailed

November 11, 2014 – Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed

November 15, 2014 Deadline to file a 2015 acreage report for perennial and fall forage/planted crops.

November 27, 2014 –Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed

December 1, 2014 – 2015 NAP Signup deadline

January 30, 2015 – Application deadline for 2012, 2013, 2014 LFP and LIP

ATTENTION!!

SHERIDAN AND JOHNSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS!

USDA Farm Service Agency is offering Disaster Assistance for 2012 and 2013 grazing losses due to the drought conditions.

The signup deadline for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) is fast approaching.

If you experienced a loss, please contact our office by **October 1, 2014** to schedule an appointment for this fall. Congressionally mandated payment reductions will take place for producers who have not acted before this date.

USDA is encouraging producers to register, request an appointment or begin a Livestock Forage Disaster Program application with their county FSA office before **October 1, 2014**, to lock in the current zero percent sequestration rate. Those who contact FSA before October 1st, even if the appointment occurs after Oct. 1st, will avoid reductions in the amount of disaster relief they receive.

As an alternative to visiting or contacting the county office, the Farm Service Agency has developed an online LFP registration that enables farmers and ranchers to put their names on an electronic list.

To place a name on the Livestock Forage Disaster Program list online, visit:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster-register>

To contact the Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office:

(307) 672-5846

Toll Free Number: 1-866-262-4396

Please Note: LFP Information packets will be available at our office.

Online FSA Farm Bill Resources

For the latest information on FSA Farm Bill programs visit FSA's national 2014 Farm Bill page at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill. For FSA program overview please read, download and/or print the recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?

► **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** ◀

December 1, 2014 is the application deadline for the 2015 Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by crop losses due to natural disasters. FSA's NAP coverage is for non-insurable crops not covered by RMA. This includes rangeland 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.

Beginning with the 2014 crop year service fees for NAP coverage have been waived for Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Eligible producers who have purchased 2014 and/or 2015 NAP coverage and paid the applicable service fees should contact their county FSA office to enquire about a NAP service fee refund.

► **Reporting Crop Losses for NAP**

If you have a loss on a covered NAP crop and wish to receive loss benefits from our office, you must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the earlier: 1) date of the disaster event that caused the loss or, 2) when the loss is apparent to you. A notice of loss must be filed for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for Non-Insured Assistance Program payments.

► **NAP Participants: Report your 2014 hay production NOW!**

Production records for grass hay crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. We recommend producers submit 2014 production records as soon as harvest is complete. If you fail to report your production it could have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.

Actual Production records should include bale count, average weight of bales, irrigation practice (NI, IR), field numbers to calculate acreage, and type of hay. **All production records need to be signed and dated by producer.** On request, our office will gladly prepare maps to assist in documenting production at time of harvest.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early in November. This year's election will be held for LAA (Local Administrative Area) number 1 in Sheridan County, and LAA (Local Administrative Area) 5, in Johnson County.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 4, 2014. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by the close of business on **December 1, 2014**. Newly elected members take office on January 1, 2015.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers – whether an operation is large or small. FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture. Members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and other important agricultural issues. Due to the immense role members' play, our office would like to encourage all eligible producers to participate in this year's COC election process. Please cast your vote and return your ballot by the deadline date!

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

Signup is currently underway at the Farm Service Agency for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LIP provides compensation to livestock producers for death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by wild animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will accept applications for this disaster program until **January 30, 2015**.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES AND FARM-RAISED FISH (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides assistance for livestock grazing, feed, and death losses; honeybee feed, colony, and hive losses, and fish feed and death losses not covered by the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). ELAP was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. Beginning on October 1, 2013 ELAP also covers losses related to the cost of transporting water as an eligible livestock feed cost. Eligible producers must have incurred additional costs for transporting water due to an eligible drought.

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2014 must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by **November 1, 2014**.

► Acreage Reporting Deadline – November 15, 2014

- **November 15, 2014** is the deadline to file an acreage report for Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-seeded Small Grains. Producers are encouraged to contact our FSA office to set up an appointment to complete their crop report certification before the deadline date. *This means your 2015 perennial hay crops, winter wheat, and range reporting deadline is Nov. 15, 2014.*
- Crop reports are required for participation in many FSA programs, such as NAP (Non-insured Crop Assistance Program), CRP (cropland and riparian areas set aside for habitat restoration and preservation), LDP commodity payments, and Disaster Program payments. The annual crop report, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all rangeland and cropland on a farm, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage.

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Important Dates to Remember

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- **October 13, 2014** – Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **November 1, 2014** – Deadline to file 2014 ELAP Notice of Loss/Application for Payment
- **November 11, 2014** – Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **November 15, 2014** – Last day to file an acreage report for perennial forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other fall-seeded small grains. (This includes Perennial hay crops, Winter Wheat, Rangeland)
- **November 27, 2014** – Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed
- **December 1, 2014** – Deadline to apply for 2015 NAP coverage
- **January 30, 2015** – Application Deadline for 2012, 2013, 2014 Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- **January 30, 2015** – Application Deadline for 2012, 2013, 2014 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

FSA APPLICATION CLOSING DATES FOR DISASTER RELIEF

January 30, 2015 ► 2012, 2013, 2014 Livestock Forage Program (LFP) *Please Note: Refer to page 1 for sequestration date.*

January 30, 2015 ► 2012, 2013, 2014 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).