



United States Department of Agriculture

MARCH 2015

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office
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FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED
Janice Wheeler, PT
Rick Miranda, Temp. PT
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County Committee Members:

Steve Schuette, Chairperson
Susan Moyes; Vice chairperson
John Buyok, Regular Member
Raymon Turk, Regular Member
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member

Dates to Remember:

March 31, 2015 – Deadline for land owners to update yield history and/or Reallocated Basee Acres

March 31, 2015 –Deadline for Producers to Make an Election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 Crop Years

April 1, 2015 – NAP sales closing date for Spring Seeded Crops

May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed

Disaster Assistance for Wyoming Farmers and Rancher

Wyoming producers have encountered extreme weather conditions over the past few years, from significant drought conditions to extreme cold and snow. LIP and ELAP are two disaster relief programs implemented by the 2014 Farm Bill to help producers recover from these disasters.

Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather events. The program also provides compensation for the loss of livestock due to attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

An eligible livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock death loss occurred. Eligible livestock includes: beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

To speed up the application process, livestock owners who experienced losses will be asked to bring records verifying those losses to their local FSA county office. Producers also are encouraged to contact the county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

Livestock Death Loss Documentation

Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died should be supplemented, if possible by such items as:

- Date of loss and description of cause of loss.
- Photographs of dead livestock (dated if possible).
- Purchase records, production records, veterinary records.
- Bank records or other loan documents.
- Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, inventory records, and other similar reliable documentation.

For additional information regarding FSA's Disaster Relief programs, producers can review the 2014 Farm Bill fact sheet at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill, or contact their local FSA Office.

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

The ELAP program is administered by the Farm Service Agency and provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. The ELAP program is designed to aid in the reduction of losses not covered by other disaster programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill. Eligible losses for ELAP include losses due to disease, excessive heat or winds, flooding, blizzards, hail, wildfires on non-federal managed lands, freeze damage, water shortages, and insects; or in the case of honeybees, losses due to colony collapse disorder.

For 2015 and subsequent program year losses producers can apply to receive ELAP benefits at their local FSA Service Center. In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered livestock losses should submit a notice of loss to the local FSA office that maintains their farm records. For program year 2015 and subsequent program years:

- The final date to file a Notice of Loss is 30 days after livestock loss is apparent.
- The final date to submit an application for Payment is November 1st after the program year in which the loss occurred.

Please Note: Producers will be asked to provide supporting documents that will show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock inventory, and evidence that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and is administered by FSA. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of *noninsurable* crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or disaster events that prevent crop planting.

Deadline to purchase 2015 Nap policy for Spring Seeded crops

April 1 2015 is the signup deadline for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, (NAP) coverage. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2015 spring seeded NAP crops. Eligible crops include annual spring seeded crops for forage or grazing that are not insurable under traditional crop insurance and, also, uninsurable spring seeded crops for grain or seed. Eligible producers must pay a service fee of \$250 per crop per administrative county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. For additional information on NAP or other FSA programs, contact your local FSA Office.

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.

► Acreage Reporting ◀

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.

July 15, 2015 is the deadline to file an acreage report for **SPRING** Seeded Alfalfa Crops, Forage Seeding, and all other **SPRING** seeded crops and any crops not previously recorded. Producers are encouraged to contact our FSA office to set up an appointment to complete their crop report certification before the deadline date.

2014 FARM BILL AUTHORIZES CONTINUATION OF LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT (LDP) PROGRAMS

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) are payments made to producers who agree to forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible commodity. The CCC-633EZ form is a two-part LDP request that allows producers to indicate their intentions to receive LDP or Marketing Loan benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity.

- By signing page one of the CCC-633 EZ, the producer indicates his/her intentions to receive LDP or Marketing Loan benefits. A producer must have beneficial interest (title to the commodity and control of the commodity) at the time of the LDP agreement request.
- Once page 1 of the CCC-633EZ form is signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request any time during the loan/LDP availability period by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

2014 FARM BILL SAFETY-NET PROGRAMS

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) are safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill and administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency. The new programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and revenues.

For the first time in many years, farmers have the opportunity to reallocate crop bases and update program payment yields. This one-time election will help with selecting protections offered by the ARC and PLC programs. The deadline to update yields and/or reallocate base acres with FSA has been extended to **March 31, 2015**. If you miss the March 31st deadline your farm's current counter-cyclical yield and base acres will be used for ARC/PLC.

After crop bases have been reallocated and payment yields updated, producers must make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC coverage that will remain in effect for the 2014 thru 2018 crop years. If producers and owners do not make a unanimous election by March 31st, the farm will be ineligible for any 2014 payments and all covered commodities on the farm will have a default PLC election from 2014 – 2018. *Please Note: Election is not enrollment; producers must still enroll their farm annually to receive program benefits.*

Important ARC/PLC Dates

- **March 31, 2015:** Extended deadline for land owners to update yield history and/or Reallocate base acres with FSA.
- **March 31, 2015:** Deadline for producers to make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC programs.
- **Spring 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years. (*Exact dates TBA*).
- **October 2015:** ARC or PLC payments for the 2014 crop year are issued, if triggered.

For more information producers are encouraged to make an appointment or contact their local FSA Office.

To assist in the decision making process, additional information and online tools are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc/plc. Farm owners and producers enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios.

Attention Producers -----NRCS Deadlines fast approaching!

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP 2 Deadline is **March 20, 2015**
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): General Signup Deadline is **March 13, 2015**
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Renewal Signup Deadline is **March 31, 2015**

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COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to John Buyok and Raymon Turk for their election by voters to serve on the Sheridan-Johnson FSA County Committee. John was elected to represent LAA 1 farmers and ranchers in Sheridan County and Raymon Turk was re-elected to continue representing LAA 5 farmers and ranchers in Johnson County.

Our FSA office staff would like to thank all the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The election of FSA County Committee members is important to all farmers and ranchers in our agricultural communities. *It is your involvement that makes the county committee system work.*

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to William White for nine years of service on the Sheridan-Johnson County Committee. Your contributions to our Agricultural Community will be greatly missed.

FSA County Committee Organizational Meeting

The organizational meeting for Sheridan-Johnson county COC members was held on January 15, 2015 to determine the chairperson, vice chairperson and regular members on the county committee for the 2015 calendar year. By unanimous vote, the Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Committee for 2015 will be as follows:

- Steve Schuette, Chairperson LAA2
- Susan Moyes, Vice Chairperson LAA4
- Raymon Turk, Regular Member LAA5
- John Buyok, Regular Member LAA1
- Thad Stoltz, Regular Member LAA3

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