



NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2011

**USDA – Farm
Service Agency
Uinta County, WY**

Email Address:
karey.clark@wy.usda.gov

Office Address:
100 East Sage Street
P.O. Box 610
Lyman, WY 82937-0610

(307) 787-3859, phone
(307) 787-3810, fax

FSA Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Closed on Federal
Holidays**

County Office Staff:

Karey M. Clark, CED
Andrea L. Rollins, PT

Brian S. Harrell,
Farm Loan Manager
(307) 856-7524
for appointments

Martin G. Hoffland,
District Director

FSA County Committee:

J. Wes Lupher, Jr.
E. Lyle Robinson
Kirk L. Eyre

Advisor to FSA Committee:
L'nette Iorg



***Emergency Conservation
Program (ECP) “Sign-Up”
opens September 01, 2011,
and
closes on September 30, 2012***

* Please carefully review the following information relative to the 2011 ECP program.

The Uinta County Farm Service Agency (FSA) received written notification that the county has been approved to open an Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) sign-up period. Applications will be taken at the USDA Service Center from September 01, 2011 thru September 30, 2011.

Those producers whom I have already been onsite to view damage location(s) you now need to complete your application(s). You must be able to provide extents needed, estimated cost to install, location and “who” will bear the expense of the project. In other words “who” will be the applicant?

If you need assistance with determining “needs or extents” for restoring head gates, pipe, irrigation structures, etc., please contact NRCS (307) 787-3794 before you schedule your appointment with FSA.

***Applications will be taken by appointment at the Farm Service Agency Office in Lyman, WY
Please call: (307) 787-3859, Ext. 2,
to schedule your appointment.***

ECP is administered by the local FSA County Committee and remains subject to funding availability. A sign-up period is being opened, however no word of funding has been received at this time.

This program provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

Rehabilitation of farmland includes conservation practices such as: remove debris; grading and shaping or leveling land to return the land to agricultural use, restoring fences, head gates, flumes and repairing ditches, etc.

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would: impair or endanger the land; materially affect the land’s productive capacity; represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agriculture use.

Conservation problems **existing prior** to the applicable disaster are **ineligible** for ECP assistance. You must sign an application prior to beginning repairs.

Making application means that you have completed and signed an ECP application with FSA. If you start your project before signing the application you will be determined ineligible for ECP assistance.

The Emergency Conservation Program is not an entitlement program. Potential applications are considered (by the County Committee) based on the eligibility of the practice needed and dependent upon funding to fund eligible applications.

If an applicant has more than one site that is damaged by the spring flooding, then the individual or entity will be asked to rank multiple applications 1, 2 or 3, in priority. The local FSA Committee may not have enough funds (if money is allocated) to fund all the applications and then must determine the greatest need (per practice) and spread funds equitably.

Therefore, if you sign a application and begin practice implementation prior to funding approval you may or may not have ECP funding when you finish.

One critical point is that any individual or entity who signs an ECP application must follow the guidelines of the program and, depending upon the type of practice, you will need NRCS technical assistance to implement the EC-4 Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installation practice according to NRCS specifications.

FSA has technical authority for the remaining ECP practice types.

ECP eligible practices are:

EC-1 Removing Debris from Farmland due to Flooding. FSA has technical authority.

EC-2 Grading Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures for land damaged by flood waters. FSA has technical authority.

EC-3 Restoring Permanent Fences. Fences torn out by flood waters. FSA has technical authority. FSA has technical authority.

*** EC-4** Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations directly damaged by the flooding. **(NRCS) has technical authority.**

EC-7 Other Emergency Conservation Measures (requires national approval) FSA has technical authority. Contact the county office for more information.

All of the ECP program practices listed above have a lifespan. When restored to specifications, the practice shall be maintained for at least 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

ECP applicants also will be required to comply with general payment eligibility requirements such as;

Payment Eligibility provisions by the filing of form CCC-902 and HELC/WC Compliance by filing the form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conserv. determination. Entities are required to file the forms for each share member of the entity down to live persons.

Payment Limitation provisions are \$200,000 per person per disaster.

Direct Attribution applies and cost-share to restore damaged farmland shall not exceed 50% of the agricultural market value.

Land Eligibility:

Eligible land for this program shall include farmland physically located in Uinta County and designated for ECP. If you own land in Summit County for example, Summit County must be approved for the ECP program in order for an application from Summit County to be accepted in Uinta County. Why? The funding for the Summit County application will come from Summit County via transfer of funds.

The land is normally used for farming or ranching operations and must comply with environmental requirements.

Ineligible land includes:
Owned or controlled by the U.S.

Cost-share requirements:

Applications that are estimated to be less than \$1000.00 in cost-share dollars are not eligible. This applies to approvals based on units approved times average cost-share, not payment.

Cost-share for the ECP program is typically 75% of the actual cost not to exceed \$___ per unit of measure.

Note: If, you have more than one damage site you may meet the \$1000.00 minimum with both projects. Keep in mind; you may not receive funding consideration on both. The Uinta County Committee must consider all applications and then fund based on highest damage priority.

Cost-share rates are established by the FSA Committee and are based on current costs for installation of a particular project.

Last by not least, FSA submitted a 2011 request for funding in July, 2011. To date we have received only the authorization to begin taking ECP applications. *No ECP funding has been received at this time.*

To sign-up for ECP cost-share consideration or if you have questions please contact Karey M. Clark, CED at (307) 787-3859, Ext. 100.

Note: on-site ECP inspection of the damage and a signed ECP application are required prior to beginning any project work.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

This program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Working with local government sponsors, the EWP Program provides assistance to areas that have been damaged by natural disasters such as floods, windstorms, drought and wildfires.

Other FSA Programs

All disaster programs except the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) requires current NAP coverage on all farms in all counties, in all states

I encourage producers to consider applying for the 2012 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage to be eligible for FSA programs, particularly, if you were to have an event that created a need for disaster assistance. *With- out NAP coverage you are not going to be eligible for program assistance.*





2011 Disaster Program

Producers who filed a notice of loss for the 2011 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) are encouraged to submit the final documentation and file the application for payment to complete the entire application process. Please timely contact the FSA office for an appointment to submit your documentation.

The EWP Program safeguards lives and property by installing conservation measures to reduce storm water runoff and prevent soil erosion as well as remove watershed impairments such as debris caught in culverts and under bridges. For more information about NRCS's EWP program, please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/

To contact the local NRCS office please call (307) 787-3794, Ext. 101 or 107.

2011 - Dates to Remember

Monthly	Uinta County Committee Meeting Third Wednesday – 1:00 P.M.
Sept. 1-30	ECP Application Sign-Up Period
Sept. 05	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
October 10	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
Nov. 04	COC Election Ballots mailed to producers in LAA#1 Almy, Bear River, Evanston, Hilliard and a portion of Piedmont (School District Boundary)
Dec. 05	Last day to return voted election ballots to FSA – Uinta County, WY
Jan. 02	Elected committee member & alternate take office.
15 Days	Within 15 days - file NAP Notice of Loss (hay and/or grazing)
30 Days	Deadline to file a FSA- 914 Notice of Loss for (LIP and ELAP) due to eligible loss event and within 30 days after death loss is apparent
SOON!	Timely file 2011 documentation and complete the LIP Application for Payment.
LDP	No established LDP rate at this time.
Anytime	Reports Changes in Ranch Operations, either Land or Leases.
Anytime	Report Banking Changes to COF

NAP Crop Loss Reporting

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 or from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. A Notice of Loss is required for each weather related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. A timely filed Notice of Loss is required on all crops, including grasses. When a loss is sustained an appraisal needs to be completed before grazing occurs or before the land is put to another use.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Compliance for FSA and NRCS Program Participants

A few of you may receive a letter regarding the IRS CCC-927 and CCC-928 forms, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information. FSA and the IRS have completed a data-sharing process for verifying AGI compliance. Every individual, legal entity and member of a legal entity that received payments from FSA or NRCS in 2009 to 2011 is required to complete the applicable form and submit it to the IRS. The form allows the IRS to compare tax data on record to the average AGI limitation amounts that were certified by the producer for program payment compliance both with FSA and NRCS.

FSA and NRCS program **participants who chose not to submit** a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 as applicable, **may be determined noncompliant** and will be required to refund payments received plus interest.

The CCC-927 (for individuals) and CCC-928 (for entities) are available at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/cc927 or www.fsa.usda.gov/cc928.



Farm Service Agency
100 East Sage Street
PO Box 610
Lyman, WY 82937-0610

U.S. Postage Paid
Lyman, WY 82937
PERMIT #G-96

*Emergency Conservation
Program (ECP)
application sign-up
opens September 01, 2011!*

Agriculture is the backbone of our country!

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a discrimination complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C., 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-Relay) or (800) 845-6136.