

MAY 2015



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Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

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Bill Morrison, Acting

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Next County

Committee Meeting:
June 11, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m.

USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers

Free basic coverage and discounted premiums available for new and underserved loan applicants

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that producers who apply for FSA farm loans also will be offered the opportunity to enroll in new disaster loss protections created by the 2014 Farm Bill. The new coverage, available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), is available to FSA loan applicants who grow non-insurable crops, so this is especially important to fruit and vegetable producers and other specialty crop growers.

New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost, or higher coverage for a discounted premium.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered crops include "specialty" crops, for instance, vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

In addition to free basic coverage, beginning, underserved or limited income producers are eligible for a 50 percent discount on premiums for the higher levels of coverage that protect up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers also may work with FSA to protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.

Growers need not apply for an FSA loan, nor be a beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmer, to be eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program assistance. To learn more, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your local FSA office at <https://offices.usda.gov>.

ELAP Coverage for Livestock & Honeybees

Potential Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) Coverage pertaining to livestock and/or honeybees is as follows:

- Loss coverage includes the cost of purchasing livestock feed above normal quantities. The weather event cannot be a drought and the feed consumed by the livestock has to be greater than the normal amount fed the previous two years. The feed does not have to be purchased or fed during the normal grazing period from April 1st to October 15th. This loss must be tied to a verifiable weather event.
- Costs and related costs to transport feed to livestock due to a verifiable weather event.
- Loss coverage for grazing losses that were not related to fire during the normal grazing period from April 1st to October 15th due to an eligible weather event. An example of an eligible weather event is as follows: Flood, hail, prolonged snow cover between April 1st to October 15th, etc.
- Loss coverage for purchased or mechanically harvested feed destroyed in the stack by flood, tornado or some other verifiable natural disaster. This feed must be used by the producers for their own livestock. Feed raised for sale to others is not eligible.
- Livestock deaths caused by non-natural events, which led to excessive herd mortality rates. Excessive herd mortality rates must be higher than normal annual losses. Examples of such events are: human caused wildfires, an abnormal disease, etc.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock or honeybee losses must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015
- An application for payment by November 1, 2015

Eligible honeybee loss includes loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including colony collapse disorder (CCD), and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Livestock Disaster Programs (Continued)

The 2014 Farm Bill made the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Livestock Forage Program (LFP).

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, due to adverse weather or 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% of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock determined by the Secretary.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) – 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% of the monthly feed cost for up to five months depending on the drought monitor. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50% of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).