



Weston County Newsletter

Disaster Program Signups

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin administering two programs that were recently approved in the 2014 Farm Bill. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. 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). LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent 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. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. The full details of this program are not yet known but the Weston County FSA office wants producers to be aware of this program so they can make plans to participate. Known documentation will include grazed crop acres (obtained from filed crop reports with the FSA) and documents that show livestock inventory numbers. For acreages not recorded with FSA there will be some kind of documentation required to prove these acres.

The Livestock Indemnity Payment program (LIP) provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. 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.

An eligible livestock owner must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock death loss occurred. Eligible livestock includes: Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Bison, Sheep, Swine, Horses, and Other Livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Livestock Death Loss Documentation: Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Documentation must include the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as: dated photographs or video records to document the loss, purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents, written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

Sign-up is scheduled to begin on April 15, 2014, at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Service Center at 1225 Washington Blvd., Suite 2, Newcastle. The office will NOT be sending out appointment cards for these programs. Producers can call the office at 746-2701 to make an appointment. Producers who walk-in the office without an appointment will be assisted as time allows. Also, Producers should call prior to visiting the office to receive full details of program requirements to minimize or prevent return trips to complete an application.

W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.