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From Pam's Desk

Greetings Platte County farmers and ranchers!

Due to qualifying drought conditions, producers in Platte County may be eligible for grazing losses under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). The deadline to apply is January 30, 2023. All of our adjoining counties are also eligible so if you suffered grazing losses this year due to the drought, please contact the office so we can have you start gathering your supporting information.



We also have programs that may provide cost-share for water hauling, transportation of additional feed, and/or transportation of livestock to available feed due to the qualifying drought conditions in Platte and surrounding counties. More information on these benefits can be found in the article about the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) in this newsletter or by calling the office.

If you have NAP coverage, you must notify the county office within 15 days of that loss being apparent to you. The only exception to this is grazing losses which only require a signature on the application for payment. **If you will not be harvesting hay on any/all of your reported meadows make sure the contact the office prior to turning livestock out to graze as an appraisal must be completed before livestock can be turned out!**

As always, please be sure to let the office know about any changes to your operation!

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 5th-office closed for Labor Day holiday

September 30th-last day to revise ARC/PLC contracts for 2022 crop year

October 10th-office closed for Columbus Day holiday

November 11th-office closed for Veterans Day holiday

November 15th-fall acreage reporting deadline for 2023 crops

December 1st-deadline to obtain NAP insurance for 2023 fall crops and perennial grass

-Pam Metz

FSA Offers Drought Assistance for Livestock Producers Through Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)



If you've suffered above normal expenses for hauling feed or water to livestock or hauling livestock to forage/grazing acres due to the impacts of drought, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

For eligible producers in qualifying counties, ELAP provides financial assistance for:

- the transportation of water to livestock;
- the above normal cost of mileage for transporting feed to livestock,
- the above normal cost of transporting livestock to forage/grazing acres.*

**Hauling livestock one-way, one haul per animal reimbursement and no payment for "empty miles."*

Eligible livestock include cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep, among others, that are maintained for commercial use and located in a county where the qualifying drought conditions occur. A county must have had D2 severe drought intensity on the U.S. Drought Monitor for eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period, or D3 or D4 drought intensity at any time during the normal grazing period. Producers must have risk in both eligible livestock and eligible grazing land in an eligible county to qualify for ELAP assistance.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

For ELAP water transportation assistance, a producer must be transporting water to eligible livestock on eligible grazing land where the producer had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities in place before the drought occurred and where they do not normally require the transportation of water. Payments are for costs associated with personal labor, equipment, hired labor, equipment, and/or contracted water transportation fees. Cost of the water itself is not covered. The ELAP payment formula uses a national average price per gallon.

ABOVE NORMAL COSTS OF TRANSPORTING FEED

ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who incur above normal expenses for transporting feed to livestock during drought. The payment formula excludes the first 25 miles and any mileage over 1,000 miles. The reimbursement rate is 60% of the costs above what would normally have been incurred during the same time period in a normal (non-drought) year. **ABOVE NORMAL COSTS OF TRANSPORTING LIVESTOCK TO FORAGE/GRAZING ACRES**

ELAP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who are hauling livestock to a new location for feed resources due to insufficient feed and/or grazing in drought-impacted areas. Assistance for Livestock transportation is retroactive to 2021 and available for 2022 and subsequent years. **For those interested in this provision for 2021, the deadline to apply for assistance is June 30, 2022.**

Please contact your county FSA office for additional details.

For calendar year 2022 forward, producers must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office **within 30 calendar days** of when the loss is apparent; producers should contact their county FSA office as soon as the loss of water resources or feed resources are known. For ELAP eligibility, documentation of expenses is critical. Producers should maintain records and receipts associated with the costs of transporting water to eligible livestock, the costs of transporting feed to eligible livestock, and the costs of transporting eligible livestock to forage/grazing acres.

ELAP also offers assistance to producers impacted by wildfire. Contact your county FSA office for more information on ELAP resources for wildfire losses. In addition, beekeepers also can benefit from ELAP provisions and should contact their county FSA office within 15 calendar days of when a loss occurs or from when the loss is apparent. For more information regarding ELAP, contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

Disaster Assistance for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Platte County are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on non-irrigated native pasture and improved pasture.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2023, for 2022 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050, ext 2, or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Applying for FSA Direct Loans



FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain, or strengthen their farm or ranch. Direct loans are processed, approved and serviced by FSA loan officers.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is \$600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is \$400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.



Platte County USDA Service Center

1502 Progress Ct
Wheatland, WY 82201

Phone: 307-322-4050
Fax: 855-415-3444

County Executive Director:
Pamela Metz 307-269-3107
pamela.metz@usda.gov

FSA Program Technicians:
Kelly Brown 307-269-3109
kelly.brown3@usda.gov

Jeannette Kaufman 307-269-3108
jeannette.kaufman@usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner 307-269-3127
rob.weppner@usda.gov

Farm Loan Analyst:
Heidi Platt 307-269-3124
heidi.platt@usda.gov

Farm Loan Program Technician:
Anna Troupe 307-269-3115
anna.troupe@usda.gov

Acting District Conservationist:
Robin Moser 307-269-3119
robin.moser@usda.gov

Rangeland Specialist:
Jenna Lincoln

Rangeland Conservationist:
Kathleen Bush

Next COC Date:

TBD

County Committee:

Amy Miller, Chairperson
Dareth Smialek, Vice-Chairperson
Chuck Maike II, Member