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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Updates

Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Office **From the Desk of Linda Benzel**

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County Committee:
Raymon Turk, Chairman
John Buyok, Vice Chairman
Thad Stoltz, Member
Ray Daly, Member
Gerry Miller, Member
Susan Moyes, SD Advisor

Greetings~

Please note, **Sheridan County** has been approved for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to the 2019 Flood Damage. If you had damage to irrigation structure, fencing, and/or debris on rangeland please read carefully the articles below.

Sincerely,

Linda

**Next County Committee
Meeting:**
Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations

Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger. When natural disaster occurs, there is a process for requesting a USDA Secretarial disaster designation for a county. Agricultural producers can play a vital role in this process.

If you have experienced a production loss as a result of a natural disaster you may submit a request to your local FSA county office for your county to be evaluated for a Secretarial disaster designation. Once a request is received, the county office will collect disaster data and create a Loss Assessment Report. The County Emergency Board will review the Loss Assessment Report and determine if a recommendation is sent forward to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for the designation.

For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

Sheridan County Producers May be Eligible for Emergency Conservation Program Assistance

A flood has caused severe damage in Sheridan County.

Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Sheridan-Johnson County Farm Service Agency (FSA).

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- impair or endanger the land

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. Eligible socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers can receive up to 90 percent of the eligible cost of restoration. No producer is eligible for more than \$500,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence.

The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations

Producers who have suffered a loss from flood damage may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance from Monday, July 29, 2019 to end of day (EOD) Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, please contact the Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Office at (307) 683-4202 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/wy.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Linda Benzel at 307-683-4202 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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