

May 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Sweetwater/Sublette-Uinta County FSA Updates

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### Sweetwater/Sublette-Uinta FSA Office

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**County Executive Director:**  
Jennifer Dutton

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Harrell

**Program Technician:**  
Ashley Simpson (UIN)  
Sadie St. Clair (SWT/SUB)

### From Jen's Desk

As winter turns to spring, calves are branded, lambing is in full swing and the cows are ready to head to green pastures, take a deep breath and come see us at the office! Many of you had a tough winter experiencing extremely high feeds costs and/or physical losses of livestock. Now is the time to gather documentation and complete those applications.

While you are in the office, we'll give you a copy of the new NAP Basic Provisions for the 2018 Farm Bill. A copy of basic provisions is available from the offices or online at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>

As most of you know, a new Farm Bill was passed this year. While we are still waiting for complete instruction there are some resources available to summarize changes to FSA Programs. Please visit <https://www.farmer.gov/farmbill> for fact sheets on changes to Farm Bill programs.

County Committee elections will be here before we know it. We will hold elections in Uinta LAA #3, which is the Lyman area, currently represented by Dustin Condos. Sweetwater LAA #2 is also up for election, which is north of I-80 and currently represented by Kaye Goicolea. Keep your eyes open for more information regarding the upcoming elections over the next few months.

Let us know if we can help!

**County Committee:**

Shelby Arambel (SUB)  
Dave Pape (SUB)  
Kaye Goicolea (SWT)  
Bob Slagowski (SWT)

Carl Hickey (UIN)  
Dustin Condos (UIN)  
Steve Sims (UIN)  
Ashley Anglin (UIN)

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

TBA

## Buy-Up Coverage and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage (NAP) Policies

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage.

"When other insurance coverage is not an option, NAP is a valuable risk mitigation tool for farmers and ranchers," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "In agriculture, losses from natural disasters are a matter of when, not if, and having a NAP policy provides a little peace of mind."

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of commercial crops for which insurance coverage is not available in order to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevent crop planting.

**NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option**

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Producers have a *one-time opportunity until May 24, 2019*, to obtain buy-up coverage for 2019 or 2020 eligible crops for which the NAP application closing date has passed.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

**NAP Service Fees**

For all coverage levels, the new NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. These amounts reflect a \$75 service fee increase for crop, county or multi-county coverage. The fee increases apply to obtaining NAP coverage on crops on or after April 8, 2019.

## NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans

The 2018 Farm Bill NAP amendments specify that qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are now eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.*"

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov).

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## Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$ 1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.
- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Jennifer Dutton at 307-362-3062 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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