

September 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Lisa Bower

Farm Loan Manager:
Bill Morrison
Tracy Neidig, FLOT

Program Technicians:
Teresa Shelton
FLPT Vacant

County Committee:
Julie Haun, Chairperson
Kirk Tolman, Vice-Chairperson
Jim Butterfield, Member

CED Comments:

Greetings Hot Springs and Washakie County Producers,

Please be aware of the following deadlines:

Emergency Conservation Program - Applications for flood damage in Hot Springs County open from **September 16 to October 16**

Emergency Conservation Program - Application for flood damage in Washakie County open from **September 16 to October 16**

Acreage reporting for apiculture and fall-seeded small grains – **November 15, 2019**

2020 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications open until **December 1, 2019**

2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) - open until **December 6, 2019**

2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program - open until **March 15, 2020**

2020 ARC/PLC Program - open from **October 7, 2019 to June 30, 2020**

Everett Jones, Member
Arnold Pennoyer, Member

COC Election ballots for LAA #3 & LAA #4 must be returned to the office by
December 2, 2019

**Next County Committee
Meeting:
October 10, 2019 at 1:00 PM**

Acreage reporting for established stand alfalfa seed and fall alfalfa seed –
January 15, 2020

If you have any questions, please give the office a call at 307-347-2456 ext.
2.

Best wishes for a successful and safe fall harvest,

Lisa Bower

County Executive Director

Washakie or Hot Springs County Producers May be Eligible for Emergency Conservation Program Assistance

A flood has caused severe damage in many area(s) of Hot Springs and Washakie Counties.

Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Washakie-Hot Springs 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 a natural disaster may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance from September 16 to October 16.

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 Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office at 307-347-2456 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/wy.

USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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.

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.

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 or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Washakie County is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff at the Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA office can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call the Washakie-Hot Springs County office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Lisa Bower](#) at 307-347-2456 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).