

Cowboy Country Connection



NEWSLETTER



April/May 2015

Carbon/Albany County

101 Cypress Ave.
PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331

307-326-5657 x 2
Fax: 855-415-3441

<http://www.usda.gov/wy>

Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Melinda Sims, Chairperson
Montie Munroe, Vice-Chairperson
Michelle Hall, Member
Tom Page, Member
Pat Sheehan, Member

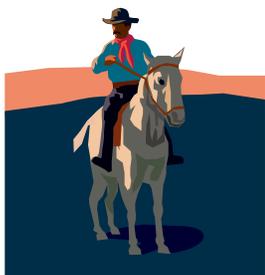
Farm Service Agency

Sheryl Hunter, CED
Alyssa VanAken, PT
Dixie Mount, FLO- Platte County,
307-322-4050

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Mark Shirley, DC Saratoga
Mike Boardman, Medicine Bow
379-2221
Caleb Owens, Baggs
383-7860
Ruben Vasquez, DC Laramie
745-3698



Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for 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. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. **Two** things must be done in order to have a completed LIP application:

- 1) **Notice of Loss:** a Notice of Loss must be filed with FSA **within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent**. Documentation is not required to report an event that kills your livestock. You may call the event into the county office or report the event in person. A signature is not required to report an event but the event must be reported timely after the death losses are discovered.
- 2) **Applications for Payment:** Participants must provide the following types of supporting documentation to their local FSA office when filing an Application for Payment. Applications for Payment must be filed **no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year** for which benefits are requested. Documentation required to file an application for payment includes the following examples:
 - * Verifiable proof of death documentation. “Verifiable” means documents from an uninterested 3rd party. Example: Veterinarian records, official 3rd Party Verification (call your local office for this form), etc.
 - * Reliable proof of death documentation, if verifiable death documentation is not available. “Reliable” means documents provided by a producer personally or from other parties with direct interest in the operation. Example: Documents such as contemporaneous diaries or calendars notating dates that livestock are found dead, dated photographs of dead livestock.
 - * Copy of growers contracts (if applicable)
 - * Proof of normal mortality documentation (verifiable or reliable)
 - * Verifiable proof of beginning or ending inventory records. “Verifiable” inventory records means records from an uninterested party such as banking records, 3rd party trucking records, pregnancy check records from a veterinarian, vaccine bills, shearing records from professional shearers, other records to support numbers claimed as beginning inventory that are from an uninterested party.

Additional information is available at the office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Important Dates

May 20- Albany County office day

May 25- Memorial Day Office Closed

June 10 -- County Committee Meeting at 10 AM in Saratoga

Anytime- Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.

15 Days- after realizing a loss to file a Notice of Loss on NAP covered crops

USDA Implements 2014 Farm Bill Provision to limit Payments to Non-Farmers

USDA proposed a rule to limit farm payments to non-farmers, consistent with requirements Congress mandated in the 2014 Farm bill. The proposed rule limits farm payments to individuals who may be designated as farm managers but are not actively engaged in farm management. In the Farm Bill, Congress gave USDA the authority to address this loophole for joint ventures and general partnerships, while exempting family farm operations from being impacted by the new rule USDA ultimately implements.

The current definition of “actively engaged” for managers, established in 1987, is broad, allowing individuals with little to no contributions to critical farm management decisions to receive safety-net payments if they are classified as farm managers, and for some operations there were an unlimited number of managers that could receive payments.

The proposed rule seeks to close this loophole to the extent possible within the guidelines requires by the 2014 Farm Bill. Under the proposed rule, non-family joint ventures and general partnerships must document that their managers are making significant contributions to the farming operation, defined as 500 hours of substantial management work per year, or 25 percent of the critical management time necessary

for the success of the farming operation. Many operations will be limited to only one manager who can receive a safety-net payment. Operators that can demonstrate they are large and complex could be allowed payments for up to three managers only if they can show all three are actively and substantially engaged in farm operations. The changes specified in the rule would apply to payment eligibility for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, loan deficiency payments and marketing loan gains realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As Mandated by Congress, family farms will not be impacted. There will also be no change to existing rules for contributions to land, capital, equipment, or labor. Only non-family farm general partnerships or joint ventures comprised of more than one member will be impacted by this proposed rule.

Stakeholders interested in commenting on the proposed definition and changes are encouraged to provide written comments at www.regulations.gov by May 26, 2015.

The proposed rule is available at <http://go.usa.gov/3C6Kk>.

USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

The 2014 Farm bill implements a change that requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 certification form must be on file with the FSA. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 farm bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs have been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes most financial assistance such as the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs, Marketing Assistance Loans, and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs implemented by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Many FSA and NRCS programs already have implemented this requirement and therefore most producers should already have an AD-1026 on file for their associated lands. If an AD-1026 form has not been filed or is incomplete, then farmers are reminded of the deadline of June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required compliance with the conservation compliance provisions.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information. A listing of service center locations is available at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If Filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Carbon/Albany County FSA Office
101 Cypress Ave.
PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

ATTENTION

ALL BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of a product. If a lien is found, you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the seller. Agricultural products included but are not limited to: Livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. *Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product.*

The Secretary of State's Office can be reached at (307)777-7311