



TOWER OUTLOOK

APRIL 2014

Crook County FSA Office

307 283-2870 phone
855 415-3442 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY
Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Susan Johnson, PT
Karla Flak, PT
Mike Idler, CED
Rob Weppner, Farm
Loan Manager-Gillette
Office, (307) 682-8843.

County Committee:

Ross Garman
Larry Fowlkes
Ivan Cranston
Roxie Dacar

Committee Meetings:

11:00 a.m. as follows:
May 29

If you wish to attend a committee meeting you should check with our office first, as a meeting date is subject to change for unforeseen reasons.

Meetings are open to the public for items that are available to the public.

NEW EMPLOYEE

We have a new employee here in the office. We welcome Karla Flak. Karla is here to help us administer the two livestock disaster programs, take crop reports and assist us with many other aspects of our program activity. We look forward to you meeting her when you visit the office.

SAVE TIME – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

FSA Program Notification

With the budget restraints FSA has been dealing with for the past three or four years we have been very restricted in our abilities to notify our producers of program availability and deadlines through our paper newsletter service. Our main avenue of informing you now is an email notification system known as GovDelivery and through GovDelivery we can send out our newsletter and other program information. The system has worked quite well over the past few years and I would encourage those of you that are not signed up for this service to please do so. It is a great way to keep informed of FSA program information and deadlines. You can sign yourself up for this service through the GovDelivery website at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. Or come to our office and give us an email address. Many of you will be in the office over the next few

months. During your visit if we don't mention this service to you please ask about it.

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Wyoming:

July 15, 2014: (spring session) annually planted crops.

November 15, 2014: (fall session) for perennial crops to be harvested in calendar year 2015. (Forage crops for hay (alfalfa/grass mix, mixed grasses, single variety grasses), native grass pasture, improved (introduced) grass pasture, and Hard Red Winter Wheat).

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease.

Acreage prevented from being planted and acreage late-planted (beyond the final planting date - May 31 for most spring planted annual crops) should be reported when filing a crop report. See NAP article on filing a notice of loss on prevented planted acreages.

We will be sending out appointments cards for the 2014 crop report spring session. If the appointed time does not work with your schedule please call our office and reschedule a time/date that does.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing (of trees/brush), breaking up new land, or drainage projects. A determination of soil erodibility needs to be made to insure compliance.

Failure to timely notify FSA could result in ineligibility of USDA program benefits.

NEW FARM BILL PROVIDES PERMANENT LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The following two programs were re-instated by the 2014 farm bill: Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

We will NOT be sending out appointment cards so producers should call our office to make their appointment. Producers who walk-in the office without an appointment will be assisted as time allows - as this spring will be a very busy period involving several program activities and signups. Also, Producers should call prior to visiting the office to receive more information of program requirements so as to minimize or prevent return trips to complete an application. The signup deadline is January 30, 2015.

It is our desire to enroll as many as possible participants by June 30, 2014 to expedite the payment process. However, all supporting documentation and required forms must be submitted before payment can be issued so, payment in these programs is dependent on your timeliness in submitting all required program documents. Both calendar years 2012 and 2013 are eligible for these two programs so compile your documentation according to the following requirements. Call us soon, get the appointment scheduled, and we'll see you in the office.

LFP Program Requirements:

Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions, or fire on federally managed land. Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land. LFP applications can only be accepted after a county reaches an allowable disaster designation (D rating) from the Drought Monitor.

Eligible producer: Own, cash or share rent covered livestock during a qualifying drought or fire. Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash leased land. Meets all other eligibility requirements

Not Eligible: Owner or cash/share lessee who rents/leases land owned by/to another producer on a basis of weight gain, cost per head, per day or month or on an AUM basis when the lessee incurs no additional expense for pasture maintenance.

Covered Livestock: Maintained for commercial use as part of a farm/ranch operation. Livestock owned, leased, purchased, and entered into a contract to purchase by a producer during a qualifying drought or fire. Mitigated Livestock: livestock sold due to a qualifying disaster event.

Livestock that normally graze in the eligible county during the normal grazing period but were moved due to drought conditions to another county.

Not eligible: Livestock normally in a feedlot on beginning date or anytime during event date range that are normally put in feedlot as producers normal business operation.

Livestock not in the designated disaster county during the grazing season.

Livestock Documentation: Documents that provide livestock inventory numbers applicable to the start of the grazing season (April 1).

Documents include:

1. Bank or other loan documents/balance sheets
2. Veterinary records
3. Records assembled for tax purposes
4. Production records, Contemporaneous records
5. Diaries, Journals, Calving/lambing records
6. Written contracts
7. Purchase / sales records

Eligible Crops/Land: Native pasture grass, Improved grasses for grazing, small grain annual crops planted specifically for grazing.

Proof of grazing crops existence must be provided.

State and Federal lands leased on a long term basis with lessee contribution inputs.

Deeded land or private lease grazing land

Ineligible Crops: CRP, irrigated crops, grain crops or forage (hay) crops.

Land leased on the basis of weight gain; cost per head/ per day/ or month; or AUM's

Crop Documentation:

Proof of control of land:

1. FSA report of crop acreages on form FSA-578
2. Records assembled for tax purposes. County assessor ownership records
3. Leases on private land
4. Leases on federal land (Forest Service). Lease MUST list AUM's or AU's allowed to graze.
5. Leases on state or BLM land.

Drought Eligibility: Land physically located in the county as having a disaster designation per the Drought Monitor during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland.

Applying for Benefits: Completed applications must be submitted in the administrative COF, along with all supporting evidence documents AND supporting eligibility forms NLT: January 30, 2015. (Years 2012, 13, 14)

LIP Program Requirements: Compensates eligible livestock owners for eligible livestock deaths, in excess of normal mortality, that occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators.

Eligible Adverse Weather Events:

Floods, Blizzards, Disease (Anthrax only), wildfires, Extreme heat, Extreme cold, Tornado, Lightning

Drought is not an eligible adverse weather event except when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs because of drought and results in the death of eligible livestock.

Eligible producer: One who assumes the production and market risks associated with the agricultural production of livestock and meets all of the following:

Had legal ownership of eligible livestock for which benefits are being requested on the day the livestock died.

Must have adequate land (owned or leased) to maintain livestock's grazing needs.

Eligible Livestock: Must have died on or after 10/1/2011.

Must have died NLT 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event or attack by designated animals.

In the calendar year for which benefits are being requested.

Be maintained for commercial use as part of a farming/ranching operation on the day the livestock died.

Died as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event or attack by eligible animals or avian predator.

Born at normal full-term or near full-term and death was a direct result of eligible adverse weather event or by eligible animal/avian predator and the birth, or abortion, produced a fully developed carcass that normally would have survived under normal weather conditions.

Feedlot cattle will be eligible under LIP if they were maintained for commercial use on the date of death.

Ineligible Livestock:

Died of disease not related to adverse weather, malnutrition, and other poor handling/management practices.

Maintained for reasons other than commercial use.

Stillborn, Unborn

Normal Mortality: Applied to determine the number of livestock losses eligible for payment.

Applying for Benefits:

Participants must file form CCC-852. Two part process: Notice of Loss (NOL) and Application for Payment (AFP). For 2012 and 2013 calendar years the NOL and AFP will be filed at the same time.

For 2014 calendar year, and subsequent years, the NOL must be filed the earlier of the following: 1/ 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the participant; 2/ 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred.

For calendar year 2014, and subsequent years, the application for payment should be completed only after all adverse weather event death loss has occurred for the calendar year.

Must provide proof of livestock deaths.

Must provide proof of inventory documents.

Proof of Livestock Death:

Must provide Verifiable, Producer Reliable or Third Party Certification (CCC-854).

Must be sufficient data that identifies the kind/type/weight range and number of livestock that died.

Verifiable is printable documentation from a source such as:

1. Veterinarian, FEMA records.
2. Bank production records.
3. Private insurance documents.
4. Written contracts.

If adequate verifiable documentation is not available participant can provide Reliable records.

Reliable records are:

1. Contemporaneous records existing at time of event that killed claimed livestock which can include: Personal diaries/journal entries/calving or lambing book listing births/deaths and unaccounted animals. Livestock kind and type along with number killed plus the cause of death must be included in this documentation.
2. Vaccination/branding records.
3. Brand inspection records.
4. Pictures with dates.

Third Party Certification: An independent source. Cannot be submitted by someone affiliated with the farming operation (hired hand or family member are not eligible third party certifications).

Certification must be very specific in knowledge of death, numbers and livestock type/weight range. Must use CCC-854 form.

If not enough information is provided in any of the above document kinds the COC can request additional information.

Documentation of death due to eligible attack animal or avian predator must be obtained from a source associated with the administration of overseeing the well-being of the protected attack animal/avian predator.

Proof of Livestock Inventory numbers:

Beginning and Ending Inventory for the applicable year:
Verifiable Records:

Bank or other loan documents / balance sheets (with all information except livestock kind/type and numbers redacted or blacked out). LIP Program: Proof of Livestock Inventory Numbers (cont.)

1. Veterinary records
2. Records assembled for tax purposes (county assessor records)
3. Production records
4. Private insurance documents (insurance indemnity if payments were received)
5. Written contracts
6. Purchase / sale records

OR,

Beginning and Ending Inventory for the applicable year:

Reliable Records

1. Contemporaneous records: producer self-recorded documents of inventory such as production records, diaries, journals, calving book entries, etc...

Crook County FSA Office
PO Box 1070
Sundance, WY 82729



Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP participants are reminded that a notice of loss must be provided for PREVENTED PLANTING claims within 15 calendar days after the final planting date of May 31st. So, a notice of loss should be filed by June 15th. This NOL starts the payment process for prevented planted acreage.

If a PRODUCTION LOSS occurs on a covered 2014 NAP crop a notice of loss must be filed the earlier of the following: 1/ 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage or commodity is apparent to the producer for low yield claims. 2/ 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

Production from calendar year 2013 spring planted crops must be reported by July 15, 2014 in order to be considered timely filed and used in the 2014 APH history payment yield. We are requesting that you also file production on your 2013 forage hay crops by this date if at all possible.

Thanks for your time, Mike Idler

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for 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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.