



# United States Department of Agriculture

## JULY 2014

**Sheridan – Johnson County  
FSA Office**  
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite  
126  
Sheridan, WY 82801

**(307)672-5846 Ext. 2**  
**Fax: 866-574-1670**

**Toll Free Number:**  
**1-866-262-4396**

Johnson County Office Day:  
First Wednesday of each  
month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center  
621 Fetterman Street  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 104

### **FSA Office Personnel:**

Linda Benzel, CED  
Janice Wheeler, PT  
Ro Todd, Temp. PT  
Peggy Swart, Temp. PT

### **County Committee Members:**

William White, Chairperson  
Steve Schuette, Vice  
Chairperson  
Susan Moyes, Regular Member  
Raymon Turk, Regular Member  
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member

### **Dates to Remember:**

**April 15, 2014** – Signup begins for  
FSA Disaster Programs

**June 15, 2014** – FSA County  
Committee Election Nomination  
Period Begins

**July 4, 2014** – Independence Day  
Holiday – Office Closed

**July 15, 2014** Deadline to file an  
acreage report for spring seeded  
crops.

**July 15, 2014** – NAP Production  
Records Deadline

**August 1, 2014** – 2012 and 2013  
ELAP Notice of Loss and  
Application for Payment Deadline

**August 1, 2014** – Last Day to file  
County Committee nomination  
forms at the local USDA Service  
Center

## **ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS!**

### **FSA OFFERS DISASTER ASSISTANCE•••••**

In recent years our livestock producers have suffered severe economic hardships due to the impact of continuing droughts, winter storms, and extreme Wyoming temperatures. With the passing of the new Farm Bill, two permanent disaster programs were reauthorized to provide retroactive payments to ranchers that experienced excess livestock deaths and/or suffered grazing losses due to adverse weather events occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Signup is currently underway at the Farm Service Agency for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will accept applications for these disaster programs until **January 30, 2015**.

### **LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM**

**LFP** provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire conditions on land that is native pasture grass, improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or small grain annual crops planted specifically for grazing. Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land. To be eligible, producers must own or lease grazing land or pasture land physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) through D4 (exceptional drought) designation for a period of time during the normal grazing period. *The grazing losses must have occurred on or after October 1, 2011.*

LFP also provides payment to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

► *Sheridan and Johnson are both eligible LFP drought counties for program years 2012 and 2013.*

### **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM**

LIP provides compensation to livestock producers for death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by wild animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by **January 30, 2015**.

### **► SHERIDAN AND JOHNSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ◀**

***PLEASE NOTE: If you experienced a qualifying loss, please contact our office to schedule an appointment, which will allow us ample time to complete the application process.***

▶▶▶ **DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUPS** ◀◀◀

**Sheridan County FSA Toll-free Number: (307) 1-866-262-4396**

**What to Bring to Your Appointment**

▶ Livestock owners who wish to participate in FSA's LIP/LFP programs will be asked to show documentation of livestock or forage losses for the applicable year. Animal inventory records will be a requirement to qualify for LIP and LFP. Please bring original receipts of:

- Bank or other loan documents/Balance sheets (please REDACT all but the livestock information)
- Veterinary receipts
- Records assembled for tax purposes
- Production records
- Written contracts
- Purchase/Sale records
- Other Documents: Lease/share livestock agreements
- Brand inspections or trucking records
- Proof of risk in the land (deeds, signed leases)
- For death losses, please include the number and kind of livestock that have died. Supplement, if possible, with dated photographs to document the loss. Include dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES AND FARM-RAISED FISH (ELAP)**

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides assistance for livestock grazing, feed, and death losses; honeybee feed, colony, and hive losses, and fish feed and death losses not covered by the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). ELAP was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. Beginning on October 1, 2013 ELAP also covers losses related to the cost of transporting water as an eligible livestock feed cost. Eligible producers must have incurred additional costs for transporting water due to an eligible drought.

Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by **August 1, 2014**. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and application for payment must be submitted by **November 1, 2014**.

**TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)**

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Tree Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. TAP is administered by the Farm Service Agency and is a permanent disaster program with retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. Signup for TAP is ongoing and Orchardists and nursery tree growers may apply to receive TAP benefits by contacting their local FSA office or USDA Service Center, or by accessing information online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **► Acreage Reporting Deadline – July 15th**

**July 15, 2014** is the deadline to file an acreage report for **SPRING** Seeded Alfalfa Crops, Forage Seeding, all other **SPRING** seeded crops and any crops not previously recorded. Producers are encouraged to contact our FSA office to set up an appointment to complete their crop report certification before the deadline date.

## **► NAP Production Records – July 15th**

**The deadline to file 2013 NAP production records is July 15, 2014.**

Actual Production records should include bale count, average weight of bales, irrigation practice (NI, IR), field numbers to calculate acreage, and type of hay. All production records need to be signed and dated by the producer. On request, our office will gladly prepare maps to assist in documenting production at time of harvest.

Production records for grass hay crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. If you fail to report your production it could have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.

### **2014 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Nomination for candidates for this year's County Committee election will be held for LAA Local Administrative Area number (1) and (5). LAA 1 is on the west side of Sheridan County and correlates with school district number 1. LAA 5 is the south end of Johnson County from Township 45N south to the Natrona County line.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on the committee help with the decisions necessary to administer government farm programs in their counties. Members provide local input and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues.

Committee members serve on the board for a three year term not to exceed 9 consecutive years. Producers who are residents in the LAA that is holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. FSA encourages beginning farmers or ranchers, women farmers or ranchers, and organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities to participate in the County Committee election process.

Nomination forms will be accepted June 15, 2014 through August 1, 2014. William White is currently serving his third term as LAA 1 representative to the county committee and Raymon Turk represents LAA 5 on the committee.

The nomination form (FSA-669A) is available at our county FSA office or may be obtained online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on August 1, 2014 or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2014.

Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office  
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126  
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**Online FSA Farm Bill Resources**

For the latest information on FSA Farm Bill programs visit FSA's national 2014 Farm Bill page at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill). For FSA program overview please read, download and/or print the recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).