

May 2014



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Sweetwater/Sublette/Uinta County FSA Updates

Sweetwater/Sublette/Uinta **LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS** Farm Service Agency

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Next County Committee Meeting: TBA

Congress passed the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) which authorized the availability of permanent livestock disaster programs for America's farmers and ranchers. In addition to being a permanent part of the farm bill, programs are authorized to cover losses back to 2012.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

LFP provides compensation for eligible livestock producers who have suffered a grazing loss due to drought or qualifying fire, but not both. The amount of the payment is based on the severity of the drought as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Payments are equal to 60% of the lesser of the monthly feed cost of:

- All covered livestock owned and leased by the eligible producer
- Or normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible producers.

The following table summarizes the number of monthly payments that each county has qualified for in 2012 and 2013.

Sweetwater 2012: 4 months 2013: 4 months

Sublette 2012: 4 months 2013: 4 months

Uinta 2012: 4 months 2013: 1 month

When Can I apply?

The application sign-up period is April 15, 2014 through January 30, 2015. The Sweetwater/Sublette/Uinta County Office will be holding sign-up days in the following locations for your convenience.

If you are currently participating with us, you will receive an appointment card in the mail. If you are not currently participating with FSA, please call the office at 307.362.3062 x2, to make an appointment at the location nearest you. We will schedule additional out-of-office sign-up days as needed. Producers are always welcome to sign-up at the Rock

Springs USDA Service Center at any time; however, we advise that producers call ahead to make sure that we will be able to serve them in a timely manner.

May 8, 2014 McKinnon Weed & Pest
May 20, 2014 Big Piney Library
June 3, 2014 Pinedale NRCS Office
June 17, 2014 Farson - Bonnie's House
July 8, 2014 Lyman USDA Service Center
July 22, 2014 Evanston UW Extension Office

What do I need to apply?

At minimum, a producer will need the following information to apply for LFP

- Copies of BLM and/or Forest Service permits
- Livestock inventory numbers, broken out by class
- Copies of sale barn documents for livestock that were sold due to drought
- Completed eligibility paperwork for each applicant or member of the applying entity
- Updated farm records and acreage reports
- Copies of written leases (or CCC-855) for leased pasture

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered death losses in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather conditions or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or are protected by federal law. LIP payments are equal to 75% of the market value (as determined by the Secretary).

What do I need to apply?

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that died including, but not limited to, pictures, purchase records, vet records, bank/loan documents, contracts, tax documents, insurance documents etc.
- Documentation of inventory numbers prior to the losses and ending inventory numbers by livestock type.

When Can I apply?

Losses occurring between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2014 must have a notice of loss AND application for payment filed by January 30, 2015 in the County office.

For losses occurring in 2015 and subsequent years, a notice of loss must be filed no more than 30 days after the death is apparent. Applicants will have until January 30 of each year to file the application for payment.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides up to \$20 million per fiscal year for emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. ELAP covers losses due to eligible adverse weather conditions. ELAP covers losses that are not otherwise covered by LFP or LIP.

Eligible livestock losses that may be covered by ELAP include

- Livestock death losses
- Grazing losses
- Feed losses – of purchased feed, harvested feed, additional costs to transport feed to livestock, purchase of additional feed during eligible weather condition
- Water hauling

When Can I apply?

For losses occurring in 2012 and/or 2013, applicants must file a notice of loss and application for payment on or before August 1, 2014.

For losses occurring in 2014, applicants must file a notice of loss and application for payment on or before November 1, 2014.

For losses occurring in 2015 and subsequent years, applicants must file a notice of loss no more than 30 days after the loss is apparent. An application for payment must be filed no later than November 1 after the program year that loss occurred.

If you think that you have eligible losses under the ELAP program, please contact the County Office at your earliest convenience.

General Information

Payment Limitation – No person or legal entity, excluding a joint venture or general partnership, may receive directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 total in program payments under LFP, ELAP and LIP combined.

Multiple Benefits – The applicant may not receive benefits for the same loss under ELAP, LFP and/or LIP. Starting in crop year 2014, the applicant may not receive benefits under Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and ELAP, LFP and LIP. The applicant must choose.

ROCK SPRINGS OFFICE NOW SERVING UINTA COUNTY

Uinta County Director, Karey Clark has retired from FSA. Due to budget and personnel constraints her position will not be filled at this time. Until further notice, all Uinta County FSA business will be serviced by the Sweetwater/Sublette County office in Rock Springs. Staff from Rock Springs will be available to assist producers by mail, e-mail and phone at any time. We will also be available, on an as needed basis in the Lyman USDA Service Center. We look forward to working with you. You can contact Jennifer or Bonnie via mail 79 Winston Dr. Ste. 110, Rock Springs, WY 82901 or via phone at 307-362-3062 x2. You may also e-mail us at jennifer.dutton@wy.usda.gov or bonnie.hueckestadet@wy.usda.gov

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