



# NEWSLETTER



**JUNE 2011 - Edition 2**

**USDA – Farm Service Agency  
Uinta County, WY**

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**Closed on Federal Holidays**

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L'nette Iorg

## Spring Flooding Damage?

The mountains remain white with snow and subsequently the threat of flood damage continues. This edition discusses two programs that are available to provide assistance to agricultural producers who suffer damage from Spring 2011 flooding.

The first program discussed is the **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

ECP is administered by the local FSA County Committee and is subject to funding availability. This program provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

Rehabilitation of farmland includes conservation practices such as: remove debris; grading and shaping or leveling land to return the land to agricultural use, restoring fences, head gates, flumes and repairing ditches. Other conservation measures may be authorized by county FSA committees, with approval from state FSA committees and FSA's national office.

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would: impair or endanger the land; materially affect the land's productive capacity; represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agriculture use.

**Any conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.**

**Producers you must make ECP application BEFORE you begin repairs.** If you complete the project and funding is not obtained, or your application is not funded for some reason, you have completed the work at your own expense.

The Emergency Conservation Program is not an entitlement program. This means that program funds must be requested and approved from the national FSA level and are based on a need for program dollars. Potential applications are considered based on the eligibility of the practice needed and dependent upon funding to fund eligible applications.

If an applicant has more than one site that is damaged in the spring flooding, then the individual or entity will be asked to rank multiple applications 1, 2 or 3, etc. The local FSA committee may not have enough funds to fund all applications and then must determine the highest need per practice and spread the funds equitably. Due to the array of natural disasters occurring nationwide a request for funding must be made and we have no guarantee that the county will receive funding, however, if enough producers suffer damage a request for funding will be made.

Therefore, if you sign an application and begin practice implementation prior to funding approval you may or may not have funding when you finish. *We recommend that you wait until funding has been secured for this program.*

One critical point is that any individual or entity who signs an ECP application must follow the guidelines of the program and, depending upon the type of practice, you will need NRCS technical assistance to implement



the EC-4 Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations practice according to NRCS specifications.

FSA has technical authority for the remaining ECP practices.

**Eligible practices are:**

**EC-1** Removing Debris from Farmland due to Flooding. FSA has technical authority.

**EC-2** Grading Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures for land damaged by flood waters. FSA has technical authority.

**EC-3** Restoring Permanent Fences. Fences torn out by flood waters. FSA has technical authority.

**EC-4** Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations directly damaged by the flooding. (NRCS) has technical authority.

**EC-7** Other Emergency Conservation Measures (requires national approval) FSA has technical authority. Contact the county office for more information.

All of the ECP program practices listed above have a lifespan. When restored to specifications, the practice shall be maintained for at least 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

ECP applicants also will be required to comply with general eligibility requirements such as;

**Payment Eligibility provisions by filing of form CCC-902 and HELC/WC Compliance** by filing the **form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conserv. determination.** Entities are required to file the forms for each share member of the entity down to live persons.

Payment Limitation provisions are \$200,000 per person per disaster.

Direct Attribution applies and cost-share to restore damaged farmland shall not exceed 50% of the agricultural market value.

**Land Eligibility:**

Eligible land for this program shall include farmland physically located in Uinta County and designated for ECP.

If you own land in Summit County for example, Summit County must be approved for the ECP program in order for an application from Summit County to be accepted in Uinta County. Why? The funding for the Summit County application will come from Summit County transfer of funds.

The land is normally used for farming or ranching operations and must comply with environmental requirements.

Ineligible land includes:  
Owned or controlled by the U.S.

*Note: Land damaged by flooding in 2010 is NOT automatically ineligible for assistance for flood damage in 2011. The FSA Committee will address this issue on a case-by-case basis.*

**Cost-share requirements:**

Applications that are estimated to be less than \$1000.00 in cost-share dollars are not eligible. This applies to approvals based on units approved times average cost-share, not payment.

Cost-share for the ECP program is typically 75% of the actual cost not to exceed \$\_\_\_ per unit of measure.

Cost-share rates are established by the FSA Committee and based on current costs for installation of a particular project or projects.

**Last by not least, FSA does need to apply for ECP funding from the national level.**

**Once the request for funding is considered and approved FSA will then conduct a Sign-Up period to accept applications after the damage is visible, known and documented by FSA.**

Until the flood waters subside it is difficult to assess the full extent of any damage.

FSA asks that you take pictures during the flooding. Please contact CED Clark once you note flood damage has occurred, or is occurring, I can be onsite to document damage as soon as you let me know the situation.

With all of the technology available obtaining documentation should be fairly easy. Take pictures with your camera, cell phone, blackberry, etc. Camera pictures are best and can be emailed directly to my email address. My email address appears in the left column on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Pictures make the County Committee's job easier when it comes to determining project site eligibility and possible funding.

**IMPORTANT!** Remember funds must be requested once damage is known. A signup period will be established after funding is approved. Applications can be signed prior to the signup period but will not be considered for approval until after the sign-up period has closed.

You must file your application with FSA at the local county office so that all applicable paperwork may be completed and obtained.

Document the damage during, and immediately after flood waters subside and contact FSA immediately.

We are still weeks out from flood waters subsiding. Waters will rise and fall with warmer and cooler temperatures.



This ECP information is a brief overview of the program requirements. Hopefully this information will help you to determine if you have a potential 2011 ECP Flood Damage application.

**Questions? Please contact CED Karey M. Clark at (307) 787-3859, Ext. 100.**

Please everyone, be safe and stay clear of the flooding water and the eroding banks with overhangs, etc. Keep children away. Flood water drowning is one of the leading causes of death.

The next program discussed is a program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

**Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)**

Working with local government sponsors, the EWP Program provides assistance to areas that have been damaged by natural disasters such as floods, windstorms, drought and wildfires.

The EWP Program safeguards lives and property by installing conservation measures to reduce storm water runoff and prevent soil erosion as well as remove watershed impairments such as debris caught in culverts and under bridges.

For more information about NRCS's EWP program, please visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/).

To contact the local NRCS office please call (307) 787-3794, Ext. 101 or 107. Mr. Jeff Lewis is the District Conservationist and is most able to provide information pertaining to this program here in Uinta County.

**Additional FSA Programs Available**

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have or are experiencing severe losses that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the following:

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) (Livestock Death Loss),**
  - **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bee Program (ELAP), Feed Assistance,**
  - **Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) (Hay & Grazing loss)**
- and the**
- **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)**

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

All disaster programs except the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) requires current NAP coverage on all farms in all counties, in all states.

I strongly encourage producers to consider applying for the 2012 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage to be eligible for FSA programs, particularly, if you were to have an event that created a need for disaster assistance. **Without NAP coverage folks you are not going to be eligible for program assistance. Let's hope you are not caught in a situation where you wish that you had applied for NAP coverage so that FSA may assist you with disaster program assistance, approval and potential funds.**

**\*\*\* Consider 2012 NAP Coverage an investment in your operation's future.\*\*\***



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The Fourth of July



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

**The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776**

And I'm proud to be an American,  
where at least I know I'm free.  
And I won't forget the men [and women]  
who died, who gave that right to me.  
~Lee Greenwood

It is easy to take liberty for granted,  
when you have never had it taken from you.  
~ Dick Cheney

**2011 - Dates to Remember**

Monthly	Uinta County Committee Meeting Third Wednesday – 1:00 P.M.
	The Farm Service Agency Staff wishes you and your family a Safe and Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July! God Bless America again and again!!!
<b>July 1</b>	2011 Crop Acreage Report Deadline
<b>July 1</b>	NAP Actual Production History Yields certified for Crop Year 2010
<b>July 4</b>	Office Closed – 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday
<b>15 Days</b>	Deadline to file NAP Notice of Loss (hay and grazing)
<b>30 Days</b>	Deadline to file a Notice of Loss for livestock losses (LIP and ELAP) within 30 days after death loss is known
<b>Anytime</b>	2011 Wool LDP Deadline is January 31, 2012
<b>Anytime</b>	Reports Changes in Ranch Operations, either Land or Leases.
<b>Anytime</b>	Report Banking Changes to COF



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