



NEWSLETTER



Crook County

117 S. 21st Street; Sundance, WY 82729

December 2015

Farm Service Agency

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NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops, pasture grass, winter wheat, and all spring seeded crops now have a sales closing date of April 1st. NAP offers a “buy-up” coverage on all eligible crops harvested for forage (hay). Through the “buy-up” option, coverage can be purchased for levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how “buy-up” coverage can work for you.

If you currently have a 2016 NAP basic coverage policy you simply come to the office, select which level of buy-up coverage you want and sign the policy. If you do not currently have a 2016 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms.

FSA has a great tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP. Remember, the **deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016.**

AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE AND PRICE LOSS COVERAGE (ARC/PLC) PROGRAM

*Signup for the program starts December 7 and runs through **August 1, 2016.*** It is your responsibility to enroll your farm each year (2016, 2017 and 2018) during the signup period. We will not send out the contracts this year like we did last year. The reason we sent out the contracts this past year (for crop years 2014 and 2015) was because of the confusion created with all the deadline dates associated with the whole signup process for ARC/PLC.

For those of you who plant annual crops in 2016 your signup/enrollment options are:

1. Enroll your farm during the April to July 2016 spring crop reporting period – Note: we will send out crop report appointment cards to *THOSE known* producers who planted spring crops in year 2015 **and** filed a crop report with this office by July 15, 2015th, or
2. Visit our office between now and August 1 to enroll your farm(s) in ARC/PLC.

For those of you not planting spring crops or will plant spring crops but **do not get** a crop report **appointment card** from this office - make sure you visit the office between now and August 1st to complete this signup. Regardless of your status with planting spring crops this year, you should contact our office to ensure your eligibility for this program.

Farms enrolled in ARC-IC (Individual Farm Contract) must report 2015 annual seeded crop grain and hay production by **July 15, 2016** in order to get yield credit for 2015 program payment purposes.

KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office:

Name/Address/Phone Number; Bank Account; Sold Property; Purchased Property; Leased Additional Property; Relinquished Leased Property

Failing to report changes to the County Office can significantly impact the timeliness of processing program applications and benefits.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - GRASSLANDS (CRPG)

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland, and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. The CRP-Grassland initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50% of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks, and fences. **FSA began accepting applications on an ongoing basis beginning September 1, 2015**, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based upon the competitiveness of the offer.

The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period was November 20, 2015.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

The next general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began December 1, 2015, and ends on **Feb. 26, 2016**. December 2015 also marks the 30th anniversary of CRP, a federally funded program that assists agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. At times when commodity prices are low, enrolling sensitive lands in CRP can be especially attractive to farmers and ranchers, as it softens the economic hardship for landowners at the same time that it provides ecological benefits. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

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 due to adverse weather, including but not limited to losses due to floods, blizzards, lightning and wildfires.

For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. ***A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.*** Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested: Proof of death documentation; Copy of growers contracts; Proof of normal mortality documentation; File a Notice of Loss; • Sign an Application for Payment by 1/30/17.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM (LFP)

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program is a permanent program providing compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing.

The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county (April 1 through October 15). LFP also provides compensation 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.

An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought monitor as having a:

D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 1 monthly payment, (a monthly payment is equal to 60% of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock or the calculated normal carrying capacity of the grazing land of the eligible producer).

D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 3 monthly payments.

D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 4 monthly payments.

D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for 4 weeks (not necessarily consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to 5 monthly payments.

Eligible livestock: must have been owned, purchased, or entered into a contract to purchase during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition; Have been maintained for commercial use as part of operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition. Livestock used for recreational purposes, such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show are not eligible. Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying event as a part of normal business operations are not eligible.

YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA, and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Youth loan eligibility requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirement.

BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER LOANS

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises.

USDA is referred to as the "Lender of First Opportunity" because we make and guarantee loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who otherwise might not be able to obtain a loan from a commercial lender. Veterans may also qualify for incentives that make it easier to acquire capital for a farm operation. USDA makes different types of loans depending on what the loan is for:

- **Farm Ownership Loans** will help you purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, construct a new or improve an existing farm or ranch building, pay closing costs, and pay for soil and water conservation and protection.
 - **Operating Loans** will help you purchase livestock and equipment, pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses, and refinance farm-related debt. Some examples of what this loan can be used for include seed and fertilizer, marketing and distribution, hoop houses to extend the growing season, irrigation, and delivery vehicles.
 - **Microloans** are operating loans designed for smaller purchases and involve a shortened application
- USDA also makes conservation and emergency loans, guarantees loans, and provided land contract guarantees.

Crook County FSA Office
PO Box 1070
Sundance, WY 82729



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Farm Service Agency

Dates to Remember

Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program signup
Continuous	Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands signup
Ongoing	Signup for LIP and ELAP
December 25, 2015	Christmas Holiday – Office closed
January 1, 2016	New Year’s Day – Office closed
February 26, 2016	Regular CRP Deadline
April 1, 2016	2016 NAP Crop Purchase Deadline
July 15, 2016	Crop Report Deadline for 2016 spring seeded crops
July 15, 2016	Deadline to file 2015 annual crop (spring or fall seeded) production reports
August 1, 2016	ARC/PLC 2016 enrollment deadline
November 15, 2016	Crop Report Deadline for 2017 (harvested in 2017) winter wheat, perennial hay crops and pasture grass
November 15, 2016	Deadline to file 2016 perennial hay crop production reports

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).