



NEWSLETTER



Niobrara County Service Center

905 S. Main; Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-3454

Fax: (855) 415-3433

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Staff

Clinton Anderson
JoAnn Wade

Farm Service Agency

County Committee

Robert Freeman Jason ZumBrunnen
Monty Finley Carol Geisinger, Advisor

Farm Service Agency

Staff

Tommy Stephens, CED
Kimberly Nusbaum, PT
Duane Wisroth, FLM

July 2015

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Niobrara County Farm Service Agency is now accepting applications for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to the floods in June. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance if the damage:

- will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- will impair or endanger the land.

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite
- inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation.

Waivers may be granted if a situation required the producer to take immediate steps to prevent further losses. **However you must contact the office as soon as possible to file an application.**

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than \$200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations.

Niobrara County producers who have suffered a qualifying loss may request assistance from June 18, 2015 to August 17, 2015.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

Producers are reminded to report their 2015 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Crop acreage reports must be certified by the **July 15, 2015**.

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 720
LUSK, WY 82225

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered 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. Producers who suffer losses must file a notice of loss within 30 days of the date of death.

Proper documentation is crucial to ensure eligibility for this program. Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses, including losses due to normal causes. Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died must be provided.

COC ELECTION

The 2015 COC Election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 (the northern part of the county). Nominations for candidates may be submitted to the office between June 15th and August 3rd. Eligible voters in LAA 2 will receive postcards in early June. If you are an eligible voter in LAA 2 and you do not receive a postcard or you are not sure which LAA you reside in, please contact the office.

REPORTING CROP LOSSES FOR NAP

If you have a loss on a covered NAP crop and wish to receive loss benefits from our office, you must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the earlier: 1) date of the disaster event that caused the loss or, 2) when the loss is apparent to you. A notice of loss must be filed for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for Non-Insured Assistance Program payments.

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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 at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.