



# NEWSLETTER



WASHAKIE-HOT SPRINGS COUNTY FSA

208 SHILOH RD WORLAND, WY 82401

JUNE 2015

Phone: 307-347-2456

FAX: 1-855-415-3445

Next meeting:  
TBD

**Staff:**

Bill Morrison, Acting CED  
Bill Morrison, FLM  
Lisa Bower, PT  
Teresa Shelton, PT

**County Committee:**

Everett Jones, Chairperson  
Kirk Tolman, Vice-Chairperson  
Julie Haun, Member  
Arnold Pennoyer, Member  
Dave Slover, Member

## Emergency Livestock Assistance Program Coverage for

### Livestock & Honeybees (Excluding Farm-Raised Fish)

#### ***THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ENCOURAGES PRODUCERS TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF LOSS BY JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> 2015.***

Potential Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) Coverage pertaining to livestock and/or honeybees is as follows:

- Loss coverage includes the cost of purchasing livestock feed above normal quantities. The weather event cannot be a drought and the feed consumed by the livestock has to be greater than the normal amount fed the previous two years. The feed does not have to be purchased or fed during the normal grazing period from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. This loss must be tied to a verifiable weather event.
- Costs and related costs to transport feed to livestock due to a verifiable weather event.
- Loss coverage for grazing losses that were not related to fire during the normal grazing period from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> due to an eligible weather event. An example of an eligible weather event is as follows: Flood, hail, prolonged snow cover between April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, etc.
- Loss coverage for purchased or mechanically harvested feed destroyed in the stack by flood, tornado or some other verifiable natural disaster. This feed must be used by the producers for their own livestock. Feed raised for sale to others is not eligible.
- Livestock deaths caused by non-natural events, which led to excessive herd mortality rates. Excessive herd mortality rates must be higher than normal annual losses. Examples of such events are: human caused wildfires, an abnormal disease, etc.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock or honeybee losses must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2015
- An application for payment by November 1, 2015

Eligible honeybee loss includes loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including colony collapse disorder (CCD), and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

## **ARC and PLC Enrollment Begins**

The enrollment period begins **June 17, 2015 and will end September 30, 2015**. Starting June 17th, producers may formally enroll in their ARC and PLC programs for both 2014 and 2015. Please stop by your local FSA office to enroll.

## **ARC/PLC Acreage Maintenance**

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

A list of noxious weeds can be found on the following website: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxiousDriver>.

## **2015 CROP REPORTING**

The annual timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

**Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.**

**In Wyoming, the spring reporting deadline is:**

**July 15, 2015 – Spring Seeded Alfalfa, Forage Seeding, and all other spring seeded crops.**

## **County Committee Election**

The 2015 COC Election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 (in Washakie County – everything west of the Big Horn River). Dave Slover is the current COC member from this area.

Additionally, the 2015 COC Election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 5 (in Hot Springs County – everything east of the Big Horn River, plus those west of the river that get their irrigation water from the river). Everett Jones is the current COC member from this area.

Nominations for candidates may be submitted to the office between **June 15th and August 3rd**. Eligible voters in LAA 1 & LAA 5 will receive postcards in early June. If you are an eligible voter in LAA 1 or LAA 5 and you do not receive a postcard or you are not sure which LAA you reside in, please contact the office.

## **2015 COC NOMINATIONS**

All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agriculture issues. Members serve a three-year term.

If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nomination form (FSA-669A), also available online at <http://www/fsa/usda/gov>.

## **Filing a Notice of Loss**

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

**If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.**

## **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 in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. 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

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2.0% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file both of the following:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016
- An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Changing How Your Agriculture Operation Conducts Business Can Adversely Affect Existing Farm Loan Program Customers**

FSA needs the help of our customers, accountants, attorneys and our lending partners. When you (or your customers) participate in FSA programs, particularly the loan programs (FSA direct and guarantee loans) it is important to notify FSA as early in the process as possible when considering a change in business structure. Some changes of concern are type of operation (partnership, trust, LLC), new EIN, adding new members, etc. Some changes (especially for existing loan customers) can affect eligibility, security instruments and other program areas. While changing the manner in which a customer does business may be legal, allowed by the IRS and perhaps more easily rectified in a bank, those changes may make a customer ineligible for FSA loans they currently hold, future loans, servicing of existing loans, or risk management and other program payments.

If you are a FSA customer or you are advising FSA loan customers and are considering changing the manner in which business is conducted, please contact the local FSA loan official prior to making the proposed changes. Time gives us an opportunity to work with the customer to try to keep them eligible for all services we can provide. For existing customers, proactive handling is our best ally.

Changing the form of doing business takes deliberation and preparation. We want to be involved at the beginning of the process so we can provide FSA program guidance to retain customer eligibility and access to FSA programs.

### **FLP program access that can be affected with certain changes (if prior approval not obtained from FSA)**

- Ineligibility for new loans or servicing.
- Can be perceived as conversion (security asset transfer or marketing security production under another name).
- Can be perceived as non-monetary default regarding program requirements or failure to keep loan agreements.
- If additional parties have been added may permanently affect eligibility.

**The critical factor is to process the resolution as quickly as possible to avoid opportunity for non-monetary default or ineligibility**

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office  
 208 Shiloh RD  
 Worland, WY 82401



PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Farm Service Agency  
 PERMIT # G-96

**DID YOU HAVE A FEED LOSS?**  
**DID YOU USE MORE FEED THAN YOU NORMALLY**  
**WOULD HAVE IN 2014/2015 DUE TO AN ADVERSE WEATHER EVENT?**  
**(IF SO READ THE ARTICLE ON THE EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**  
**THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ENCOURAGES PRODUCERS**  
**TO CALL THE OFFICE OR COME IN TO APPLY FOR**  
**POTENTIAL ELAP LOSS COVERAGE BY JULY 15, 2015.**

<b>IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:</b>	
4 <sup>TH</sup> OF JULY HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED	JULY 3, 2015
ENROLL FOR ARC/PLC	JUNE 17, 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
COC ENCOURAGES NOTICE OF LIVESTOCK FEED LOSS	JULY 15, 2015
LAST DAY FOR CROP REPORTING	JULY 15, 2015
FINAL COC NOMINATIONS DUE	JULY 27, 2015
Office Hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you in a timely manner.	<b>Selected Interest Rates for June 2015:</b> Farm Operating Loan – Direct - 2.375% Farm Ownership Loan – Direct - 3.50% Farm Ownership – Down Payment – 1.50% Farm Ownership – Joint Financing – 2.50% Farm Storage Facility Loans for June: Grain Bins – 7 year term - 1.875%

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)

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact Washakie-Hot Springs County Office at 307-347-2456 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.