



May, 2023

Carbon/Albany County Farm Service Agency:

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Saratoga, WY 82331

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County Executive Director:

Sheryl Hunter
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Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner: 307-322-4050
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County Committee:

Ryan Wilson, Cheryl Munroe,
Mary Ann Boles, Robin Carter,
and Darcy Kaisler

Next Committee Meeting:

May 24 @ 10 AM

Important Dates:

May 26 – Grasslands CRP program sign-up deadline

May 29 – Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

June 2 – Deadline to submit 2023 LIP or ELAP notices of loss for winter losses

June 19 – Closed for Juneteenth Holiday

July 17 - Acreage reporting deadline for all crops planted prior to July 15, 2023 **This includes alfalfa and CRP**

Highlights from the CED

Greetings Carbon and Albany County producers! Well, it appears that spring has finally arrived.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce our permanent Program Technician to the Carbon/Albany County office. Karsen Lorentz has joined our team. She comes to us with agricultural knowledge and experience, but new to the Farm Service Agency family. She will be a wonderful asset to all of us having someone to help administer the programs.

We do have two very important livestock programs to available to assist you with either livestock losses and/or the purchase of additional feed (including expenses for snow removal) due to an eligible weather event. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) may assist with livestock losses, above normal mortality, due to eligible weather event(s). The Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) may assist with feed purchases above average prior to years purchases. These expenses can include the cost of snow removal either completed by yourself or hired to do. Both programs require that a notice of loss is filed within 30 days of the loss becoming apparent. The Agency has granted a temporary extension to anyone that has not filed their notice of loss within the 30 days. **That extension deadline is June 2, 2023.**

Lastly, with warmer weather and high winter snow amounts comes the possibility of flooding. If you experience flooding and/or flood damage, please contact the office and let us know so that we can properly plan for any possible program assistance that may be available.

USDA Announces Grassland Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023

USDA announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting today and running through May 26, 2023. Among CRP enrollment opportunities, Grassland CRP is a unique working lands program, allowing producers and landowners to continue grazing and haying practices while conserving grasslands and promoting plant and animal biodiversity as well as healthier soil.

More than 3.1 million acres were accepted through the 2022 Grassland CRP signup from agricultural producers and private landowners. That signup—the highest ever for the program—reflects the continued success and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs. The current total participation in Grassland CRP is 6.3 million acres, which is part of the 23 million acres enrolled in CRP opportunities overall.

Since 2021, USDA's FSA, which administers all CRP programs, has made several improvements to Grassland CRP to broaden the program's reach, including:

- Creating two National Priority Zones to put focus on environmentally sensitive land such as that prone to wind erosion.
- Enhancing offers with 10 additional ranking points to producers and landowners who are historically underserved, including beginning farmers and military veterans.
- Leveraging the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to engage historically underserved communities within Tribal Nations in the Great Plains.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sheryl Hunter at 307-326-5657, extension 2, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2023 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower's 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% 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.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2024.

For more information, contact the Carbon/Albany County USDA Service Center at 307-326-5657 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM- FILLING A NOTICE OF LOSS

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by an eligible adverse weather event or attacked by federally protected animals (Eagles and Grizzly Bears) or re-introduced predators (Grey Wolf). In addition, LIP covers livestock that were injured due to an eligible event and were sold for a reduced price within 30 days of the eligible event.

An eligible adverse weather event is defined as one that is not expected to occur during the loss period for which it occurred, which directly results from or is exacerbated by extreme, abnormal and damaging weather that directly results in injury or death of eligible livestock in excess of normal mortality and includes any of the following that occur in the calendar year for which benefits are requested: earthquake; hail; lightning; tornado; tropical storm; typhoon; fog; hurricane; flood; blizzard; wildfire; extreme heat; extreme cold; straight-line winds; eligible winter storm; Larkspur poisoning; Cyanobacteria; or Anthrax.

Blizzard means, as defined by the National Weather Service, as storm which contains large amounts of snow or blowing snow with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibility of less than ¼ mile for an extended period of time.

Eligible winter storm is an event that is so severe as to directly cause injury to livestock, lasts in duration for at least three (3) consecutive days and includes a combination of high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall, and extremely cold temperatures. For a determination of winter storm, the wind, precipitation, and extremely cold temperatures must occur within the 3-day period with wind and extremely cold temperatures occurring in each of the three (3) days.

The following information is provided to assist producers with the minimum Livestock Indemnity Program documentation requirements.

The County Committee may require additional records, depending on your operation or the loss condition(s).

To participate in the Livestock Indemnity Program, it is a two-step process. First, you must file a Notice of Loss with 30 calendar days of noticing the loss. Second, you must file an Application for Payment any time after the Notice of Loss but no later than March 1 in the year following your loss.

Notice of Loss:

To begin, you must file a Notice of Loss within 30 calendar days of the date your livestock death or injury losses are apparent. You will not need to declare the number of death losses at this time but you will need to state what type of loss condition occurred (weather or predator attack), the beginning and ending dates of the event, and the type and kind of livestock involved. The type of event and date(s) of the event need to be specific. Stating snow "the week of ____" or cold temps "the month of ____" is not specific.

Filing the Notice of Loss can be done in person, over the phone, or by email. FSA recommends that you file in person if possible.

Per handbook procedure found in 1-LIP, **you are required to provide the weather event documentation** to the County Committee. Failure to do so will result in the weather event being determined ineligible due to lack of required documentation.

You will have to file more than one notice of loss if you have multiple events in a single year. Loss claims for LIP are considered on a calendar year basis, January 1 through December 31.

You will be notified if the loss condition is determined eligible or not and approved or disapproved by the County Committee.

Is Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for you?

This program allows for producers to continue to graze and/or hay the lands while earning a yearly payment. **Offers are being accepted now and closes May 26, 2023.** Making an offer does not guarantee acceptance and a contract, as this is a nationwide program and acceptance is based on total ranking points and the nation cut off on those point totals.

How to Sign Up for Grassland CRP

Landowners and producers interested in Grassland CRP, or any other CRP enrollment option, should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before the deadlines.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can enroll in the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter into a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

Payments

Land offered in Carbon or Albany County have a maximum payment of \$13 per acre per year. The contracts are for 10 or 15 years, as chosen by the applicant. There is the option to increase ranking points by offering your land at a reduced price per acre.

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on micro-loans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the "Start" button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

For more information, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit farmers.gov.

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**Important Disaster Program and Grassland
CRP information enclosed. Please read and
note upcoming deadlines!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).