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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.**

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. More information on the program can be found in this newsletter.

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.

Dates To Remember

May 26, 2023 – Grasslands CRP program sign-up deadline

May 29, 2023 -- Office closed in observance of Memorial Day **June 2, 2023** Deadline to submit 2023 LIP or ELAP notices of loss for winter losses

June 19, 2023 -- Office closed in observance of Juneteenth **July 17, 2023** – Acreage reporting deadline for all crops planted prior to July 15, 2023. This includes alfalfa, CRP, spring barley, and oats. **Remember alfalfa and CRP require yearly certifications.**

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.

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.

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.

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 microloans. 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.

Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program

The Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.



USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept PARP applications from January 23, 2023, through June 2, 2023. **Just extended to July 14, 2023**

Eligible and Ineligible Commodities

For PARP, eligible agricultural commodities include crops, aquaculture, livestock, livestock byproducts, or other animals or animal byproducts that are produced as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. This includes only commodities produced in the United States or those produced outside the United States by a producer located in the United States and marketed inside the United States.

The following commodities **are not eligible** for PARP:

- Wild free-roaming animals.
- Horses and other animals used or intended to be used for racing or wagering.
- Aquatic species that do not meet the definition of aquaculture.
- *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of that plant that does not meet the definition of hemp.
- Timber.

Program Eligibility

PARP payments will be made on a whole-farm basis, not commodity-by-commodity. To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and must have experienced a 15 percent decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020, as compared to either:

- The 2018 or 2019 **calendar year**, *as elected by the producer*, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 **calendar years**, or
- The producer's expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue, if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.

PARP payments will be issued after the application period ends on June 2, 2023.

For more information on determining allowable gross revenue visit farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp or review the [PARP fact sheet](#).

More Information

To apply for PARP, contact your [local USDA Service Center](#).



Carbon/Albany County

USDA Service Center

101 Cypress Ave
PO Box 607 Saratoga, WY 82331

Phone: 307-326-5657
Fax: 855-415-3441

Farm Service Agency

Sheryl Hunter, County Exec. Director
307-326-5657
sheryl.hunter@usda.gov

Karsen Lorentz, Program Tech
307-326-5657
karsen.lorentz@usda.gov

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Mark Shirley, Carbon County Dist. Con.
307-326-5657
mark.shirley@usda.gov

Chris Bove, Albany County Dist. Con.
307-745-3698
chris.bove@usda.gov

County Committee

Cheryl Munroe- Chair
Mary Ann Boles- Vice-Chair
Robin Carter- Member
Darcy Kaisler- Member
Ryan Wilson- Member

Next COC Meeting- TBD