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## Important Updates

### Upcoming Deadlines/ Dates:

**November 10-** Office Closed- Veteran's Day (Observed)

**November 23-** Office Closed- Thanksgiving

**December 1- NAP Application for Coverage Deadline** for Perennial Grasses, Fall Planted Crops, and Honey

**December 4-** Deadline to return **COC election ballots** for LAA's 3

**December 25-** Office Closed- Christmas

\*\*Producers that have notices of loss for LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program) and ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program), we need your information to put together your application for payment. Please contact the office to find out exactly what is needed!!



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## FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2023 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 6, 2023, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 4, 2023.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive, indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must:

- Be of legal voting age or, if not of legal voting age, supervise and conduct the farming operation of an entire farm.
- Have an interest in a farm or ranch as either:



- An individual who meets one or more of the following:
  - Is eligible and capable to vote in one's own right.
  - Is a partner of a general partnership.
  - Is a member of a joint venture.
- Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information to FSA about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received program benefits.

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area 3 (Little Snake River Conservation District area), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local FSA county office. Customers can identify which LAA they or their farming operation is in by using our new GIS locator tool available at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2024.

The candidate in this year's election is:

Darcy Kaisler is nominated in LAA 3 (Little Snake River Conservation District area), Carbon County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Darcy resides in Savery and has produced hay and cattle for many years.

She is a current member of the Carbon/Albany County Committee and serves as voting member.

More information on county committees can be found at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) or by contacting the Carbon/Albany County FSA office.

## Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2022

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide more than \$3 billion to commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2022. Eligible impacted producers can apply for financial assistance through the [Emergency Relief Program \(ERP\) 2022](#). The program will help offset the financial impacts of crop yield and value losses from qualifying disasters occurring in 2022.



**Background** On Dec. 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law the *Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)* that provides about \$3.7 billion in financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by eligible natural disasters that occurred in calendar year 2022. ERP 2022 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying, calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions. ERP 2022 program benefits will be delivered to eligible producers through a two-track process. FSA intends to make both tracks available to producers at the same time. This two-track approach enables USDA to:

- Streamline the application process.
- Reduce the paperwork burden on producers.
- Proactively include provisions for underserved producers who have not been well served by past emergency relief efforts.
- Encourage producer participation in existing risk management programs to mitigate the impacts of future severe weather events.

It's important to note that disaster-impacted producers may be eligible for ERP 2022 assistance under one or both tracks. To avoid duplicative benefits, if a producer applies for both tracks, the Track 2 payment calculation will take into account any payments received through Track 1.

**ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 1** ERP 2022 Track 1 leverages existing federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for calculating payments for eligible

crop producers who received indemnities through these risk management programs. Although FSA is sending pre-filled ERP 2022 Track 1 application forms to producers who have crop insurance and NAP data already on file with USDA, producers indemnified for losses resulting from 2022 natural disasters do not have to wait to receive the application before requesting ERP 2022 assistance. Effective Oct. 31, 2023, producers can apply for ERP 2022 benefits whether they have received the pre-filled application or not. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP 2022 Track 1 payment. USDA estimates that ERP Track 1 benefits will reach more than 206,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,500 producers who obtained NAP coverage for the 2022 crop year.

**ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 2** Track 2 is a revenue-based certification program designed to assist eligible producers who suffered an eligible decrease in revenue resulting from 2022 calendar year disaster events when compared with revenue in a benchmark year using revenue information that is readily available from most tax records. In cases where revenue does not reasonably reflect a normal year's revenue, Track 2 provides an alternative method for establishing revenue. Likewise, Track 2 affords producers of crops that are used within an operation and do not generate revenue from the sale of the crop a method for establishing revenue for the purpose of applying for ERP 2022 benefits. Producers are not required to submit tax records to FSA unless requested by the County Committee if required for an FSA compliance spot check. Although not required when applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, applicants might find the following documents useful to the process:

- Schedule F (Form 1040)
- *Profit or Loss from Farming* or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Track 2 targets gaps in emergency relief assistance for eligible producers whose eligible losses were not covered by crop insurance or NAP including revenue losses too small (shallow loss) to be covered by crop insurance. Producers interested in applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, should contact their local FSA county office. Additional reference resources can be found on FSA's [emergency relief website](#).

**Additional Required Forms** For both ERP 2022 tracks, all producers must have certain required forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the ERP 2022 deadline. Producers can apply for ERP 2022 starting Oct. 31, 2023. The application deadline has not yet been determined and will be announced at a later date. If not already on file, producers can update, complete and submit required forms to FSA at any time. Required forms:

- Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet*.
- Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs* (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, if applicable, for the 2022 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms can contact their local FSA county office.

**Future Insurance Coverage Requirements** All producers who receive ERP 2022 payments must purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, in the next two available crop years as determined by the Secretary. Purchased coverage must be at the 60/100 coverage level or higher for insured crops or at the catastrophic coverage level or higher for NAP crops.

**More Information** ERP 2022 eligibility details and payment calculation factor tables are available on the [emergency relief website](#), in the [ERP Track 1](#) and [ERP Track 2](#) fact sheets and through your local [FSA county office](#).

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## Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.



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## NRCS is Now Accepting Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Applications for the Inflation Reduction Act Climate Smart Effort

*(EQIP) Applications Must be received by November 29, 2023*

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wyoming is currently accepting applications for enrollment into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for the Inflation Reduction Act.

The project focuses on climate-smart agriculture and forestry (CSAF) mitigation practices in Wyoming. Some of the most popular practices in Wyoming will be eligible for this effort. Some of these practices include cover crop, forest stand improvement, nutrient management, and prescribed grazing. **Producers interested in implementing conservation practices to improve natural resources on their private agricultural land have until November 29, 2023 to submit applications.** *Applications are accepted on a continual basis, so even if you miss the November 29<sup>th</sup> deadline, you can still apply. It is possible that there will be more funding opportunities in FY 2024.*

The opportunities to participate in EQIP are diverse. In addition to the general EQIP project enrollment, the Program also affords socially disadvantaged, beginning, and limited resource farmers and ranchers specific opportunities to improve or enhance natural resources on their lands.

**Producers must have farm records current with the Farm Service Agency and submit a complete program application to NRCS to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.** Applications are accepted in all Wyoming NRCS USDA Service Centers for this effort. To find out more information about EQIP please visit the [EQIP webpage](#). To locate an NRCS field office near you, please visit the [USDA Service Center webpage](#).

When visiting with NRCS staff about the EQIP program, landowners are encouraged to inquire about NRCS' comprehensive conservation plans. The Agency continually strives to put conservation planning at the forefront of its programs and initiatives. Conservation plans provide landowners with a comprehensive inventory and assessment of their resources, as well as an appropriate start to improving the quality of soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife on their land.



Carbon/Albany

## 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 Executive Director  
307-326-5657 x 2

[sheryl.hunter@usda.gov](mailto:sheryl.hunter@usda.gov)

Karsen Lorentz, Program Technician  
[karsen.lorentz@usda.gov](mailto:karsen.lorentz@usda.gov)

### County Committee:

Cheryl Munroe, Chair

Mary Ann Boles, Vice-chair

Robin Carter, Member

Darcy Kaisler, Member

Ryan Wilson, Member

Next COC Meeting: December 6 @ 10 AM at the  
Saratoga Office

### Natural Resource Conservation Service

Mark Shirley, District Conservationist- Carbon County  
[mark.shirley@usda.gov](mailto:mark.shirley@usda.gov)

Chris Bove, District Conservationist- Albany County  
[chris.bove@usda.gov](mailto:chris.bove@usda.gov)