

**Fall
2023**



**Park County Farm
Service Agency**

1017 Highway 14A
Powell, WY 82435

Phone: 307-754-9411
Fax: 855—415-3438

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Monday—Friday

County Executive Director:

Darla Rhodes

CED Trainee:

Charlton Bennett

Program Technician:

Alyssa Stanley

Farm Loan:

Jolene Beiswenger, FLM
Tanya Butz, FLOT

County Committee:

Emily Karst—Chairperson
Tim Acord —Vice-chairperson
Lynn George —Member

Next Committee Meeting:

To Be Determined

County Office Message

From Darla's Desk...



Happy fall to the Park County farmers and ranchers! With harvest in full swing, I hope this finds you all having a safe and prosperous year.

Please remember the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including eligible adverse weather, eligible disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. You must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

If you have made changes to your banking information, address, phone number, land that you own, operate and/or lease, please report those changes to the office as soon as possible so that we may update that information and keep your records current.

And in closing, if you see Emily Karst, Tim Acord, and Lynn George around, please tell them thank you for serving on the Park County Committee. They are doing an amazing job representing the farmers and ranchers of Park County and are here to serve you!

Conservation Compliance on Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands

Highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions aim to reduce soil loss on erosion-prone lands and to protect wetlands for the multiple benefits they provide. HEL and WC provisions apply to all land that is considered highly erodible or a wetland, and that is owned or farmed by persons voluntarily participating in USDA programs.

To comply with HEL and WC provisions, agricultural producers and affiliated persons must fill out and sign for AD-1026 certifying they will not:

- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without following an NRCS-approved conservation plan or system
- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland; or
- Convert a wetland that makes the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

In addition, producers planning to conduct activities that may affect their HEL or WC compliance; for example land clearing, conducting drainage activities, land leveling, filling, dredging, or excavation, including the clearing of woody vegetation; must notify FSA by filing form ad-1026. FSA will notify NRCS, and they will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical evaluations and issue determinations if needed.

It is extremely important that producers comply with the HEL and WC provisions to continue receiving USDA program benefits. Please contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- O Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- O Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- O Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Keeping Livestock Inventory Records

Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help you if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you'll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your Park County USDA Service Center at 307-754-9411 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Upcoming Deadlines & Important Dates

- * October 19, 2023—Office Closed—Columbus Day
- * November 6, 2023—Ballots mailed to eligible voters for the FSA County Committee election
- * November 15, 2023—FSA acreage reporting deadline to report fall seeded crops
- * November 23, 2023—Office Closed—Thanksgiving
- * December 1, 2023—FSA NAP application closing deadline for coverage in the 2024 production season
- * December 25, 2023—Office Closed—Christmas
- * January 1, 2024—Office Closed—New Year's

Also remember the following:

NAP Notice of Loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss becomes apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date.

LIP Notice of Loss must be filed 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

Leases and/or Land Ownership changes including operational changes must be reported within 30 calendar days of change to avoid late fees, repayment of funds issued and/or eligibility for program participation.

Noninsured Crop Coverage Helps Producers Manage Risks

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps you manage risk through coverage for both crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters. The eligible or "noninsured" crops include agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance.

You must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop in the crop year in which the loss incurred to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Buy-up levels of NAP coverage are available if the producer can show at least one year of previously successfully growing the crop for which coverage is being requested.

Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

NAP Service Fees For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.*"

Before You Break Out New Ground, Ensure Your Farm Meets Conservation Compliance

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the conversion of land from native vegetation to commodity crop production after December 23, 1985. As part of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, if you're proposing to produce agricultural commodities (crops that require annual tillage including one pass planting operations and sugar cane) on land that has been determined highly erodible and that has no crop history prior to December 23, 1985, that land must be farmed in accordance with a conservation plan or system that ensures no substantial increase in soil erosion.

Eligibility for many USDA programs requires compliance with a conservation plan or system on highly erodible land (HEL) used for the production of agricultural commodities. This includes Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan, disaster assistance, safety net, price support, and conservation programs; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs; and Risk Management Agency (RMA) Federal crop insurance.

Before you clear or prepare areas not presently under production for crops that require annual tillage, you are required to file Form AD-1026 "Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification," with FSA indicating the area to be brought into production. The notification will be referred to NRCS to determine if the field is considered highly erodible land. If the field is considered HEL, you are required to implement a conservation plan or system that limits the erosion to the tolerable soil loss (T) for the predominant HEL soil on those fields.

In addition, prior to removing trees or conducting any other land manipulations that may affect wetlands, remember to update form AD-1026, to ensure you remain in compliance with the wetland conservation provisions.

Prior to purchasing or renting new cropland acres, it is recommended that you check with your local USDA Service Center to ensure your activities will be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.

For additional information on highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance, contact [your local USDA Service Center](#).

**USDA Farm Service Agency
Park County FSA Office
1017 Highway 14A
Powell, WY 82435**

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

Farm Service Agency is already working on operating loans for spring 2022 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional farm operating and farm ownership loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Loans to beginning farmers and members of under-served groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

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).

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Darla Rhodes at 307-754-9411 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.