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## Courtney's Corner- CED Comments, Upcoming Deadlines, and a Few Jokes

Hello Sheridan and Johnson Counties!

The phones for all of the FSA offices in the state, and even many nationwide, have been having technical issues with our phone system. If you try to call the office and are unable to get through, just keep trying. We are also experiencing long delays on our end- we pick up the receiver and it can take up to 30 seconds for the call to come through to us. We are sorry for the inconvenience this has caused and appreciate your patience while our IT department researches this issue.



There will be some major construction and pavement maintenance on Sugarland Drive leading to the Sheridan office, beginning September 11, 2023 and is scheduled to be completed by October 18, 2023. Traffic will be shut down to one lane, but the office will still be open!

We have been working diligently to address any payments that may be sitting out there from the last few years. If you are missing a payment, please contact the office and we will look into it. We will also be contacting producers in the coming months and winter to look at your farm records and maps. If you know of errors, please let us know and we will correct them.

Finally, Johnson County producers- we are planning to bring back our workdays in Buffalo and Kaycee! Look in future bulletins for a schedule of those dates.

-CY

### **Upcoming Deadlines/ Dates:**

October 9- Office Closed- Columbus Day

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

November 15- Fall Planted Crop (Winter Wheat) Acreage Reporting Deadline

November 23- Office Closed- Thanksgiving

December 1- NAP Application for Coverage Deadline for Perennial Grasses and fall planted crops

### **A Few Jokes to Brighten Your Day-**

Why does the navy of Norway have bar codes on the side of their ships? So when they come back to port they can Scandinavian.

What kind of car does an egg drive? A Yolkswagon.

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired.

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# USDA Updates Livestock Disaster Payment Rate to Assist Producers Hard-Hit by Heat and Humidity

FSA is updating the [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#) payment rate to support livestock producers in the Midwest who have lost cattle to the extreme heat and humidity experienced this summer. To help indemnify ranchers to reflect a trend towards higher cattle weights in feedlots, the 2023 LIP payment rate for beef calves over 800 pounds will increase from \$1244 per head to \$1618, an increase of \$374.



LIP provides benefits to livestock owners and some contract growers for livestock deaths exceeding normal mortality from eligible adverse weather events, certain predation losses and reduced sales prices due to injury from an eligible loss. Indemnity payments are made at a rate of 75% of the prior year's average fair market value of the livestock.

The updated LIP payment rate is effective immediately and will be applied retroactively starting Jan. 1, 2023, for all eligible causes of loss including excessive heat, tornado, winter storms, and other qualifying adverse weather. Producers who have already received LIP payments for 2023 losses will receive an additional payment, if applicable, commensurate with this updated rate. For details on eligibility and payment rates, review the [LIP fact sheet](#).

FSA recognizes that an annual update of LIP payment rates does not account for the volatile nature of livestock markets and is further exploring flexibilities to establish more current payment rates.

## More Information

On [farmers.gov](#), the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Loan Assistance Tool](#) can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](#). For FSA and NRCS programs, they should contact their [local USDA Service Center](#).

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## Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your Sheridan/Johnson County USDA Service Center at 307-683-4202 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](#).

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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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## What Are Your Field Goals?

With harvest approaching and football season kicking off, it's a great time for producers to work on their own field goals. For the next several weeks, we'll be looking at conservation practices through the lens of football.

In some ways, being a farmer or rancher is like being a coach. You assess the landscape, develop a strategy, cultivate a team, and refine your tactics each season as you find the plays that work. All the while, your fans here at Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are proud to support and cheer you on, winning season after winning season.



### First Quarter

One of the first and most important steps is to develop a game plan. Ask yourself: What's working well? What could be improved? How can you best navigate your opportunities and challenges to reach your goals?

Our conservation experts can help you answer all those questions. We'll meet with you, walk your land with you, and help develop a [conservation plan](#) customized to match your field goals. This tailored gameplan will help you develop a playbook for many successful seasons.

### Second Quarter

No successful farmer goes it alone; you're going to need to recruit a winning team. But if you create the right conditions, you'll attract the most talented players nature can provide. Practice makes perfect, and we'll discuss some tried and true practices that will attract a deep bench of [soil microbes](#), [pollinators](#), [beneficial insects](#), and other key players. With the right team, you'll grow like never before.

### Halftime Report

Stay tuned while we check in with experts to provide play-by-play commentary of key moments, identify the most valuable players and offer advice for avoiding unforced errors and fumbles. Then it is time to take what you've learned, make mid-game adjustments and lead your team to victory in the second half.

### Third Quarter

You've found your stride and things are growing well, but there's always room for a bit more optimization and improvement. We'll highlight practices that will elevate your team to the next level, help you thrive with fewer inputs and less waste, and grow more by doing less.

### Fourth Quarter

By following your conservation gameplan, adopting soil health practices, optimizing your inputs, and reducing your waste, you'll enjoy a strong home field advantage for many seasons to come. Unlike in football, your team will always stick around and grow stronger with each passing season. You will bank the benefits of conservation and enjoy the resiliency and productivity of healthy soil.

No matter which of these goals you are looking to accomplish on your farm, experts from USDA's [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS), [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) and [Risk Management Agency](#) (RMA) are available to help you accomplish them. **For more information on how NRCS, FSA and RMA can help you kick this next growing season through the uprights, contact your local service enter by visiting [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).**



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### County Committee:

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Gerry Miller- Vice-Chair  
Ray Daly- Voting Member  
Trevor Lutterman- Voting Member  
Joni Harlan- Voting Member