

Extension Education
Beth Crandall News Column
October 31, 2018

Farmer and Rancher Assistance Programs

By Beth Crandall

This year has been rough for agriculture producers in Utah. Thankfully, there are quite a few assistance programs offered to farmers and ranchers in our area. Drought issues are something that many farmers and ranchers have been dealing with throughout the year. These effects will continue to hurt production practices in the coming years.

Market Facilitation Program

The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) is offered through Farm Service Agency (FSA), a branch of the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program offers direct payments to producers of corn, cotton, sorghum, soybean, wheat, dairy, and hogs, who have been negatively impacted by illegal retaliatory tariffs. Producers of these commodities may apply for MFP from September 2018 until January 15, 2019. Currently, the payment is determined on the first 50% of the producer's total production of the commodity.

These payment rates are currently at:

- Cotton: \$0.06 per lb.
- Corn: \$0.01 per lb.
- Sorghum: \$0.86 per bushel
- Soybeans: \$1.65 per bushel
- Wheat: \$0.14 per bushel
- Dairy: \$0.12 per cwt
- Hogs: \$8.00 per head (as of August 1, 2018)

Producers must be able to provide documentation to support the amount of production. They must meet certain eligibility requirements to apply for the MFP. Visit www.farmers.gov/MFP to learn more about eligibility requirements. Applications can be completed at a local FSA office or online at www.farmers.gov/MFP.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

There are a variety of disaster programs offered to producers in our area. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to livestock producers who have had grazing losses due to drought conditions or fire. Juab County is eligible for the LFP program for five months of loss compensation on native and improved pastures. There are certain qualifications that must be met to make the livestock, producer and land eligible for these payments. Please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

CRP Emergency Grazing

As mentioned in an earlier article, CRP (Conservations Reserve Program) land is allowed for emergency grazing use for a 90-day period. Requesting the use of this land must be done through your local FSA office and the owner of the land must be willing to allow it to be used.

There are a variety of other assistance programs offered to agriculture producers. If you are interested in learning more or would like to see if you qualify for any of them, please contact the USDA or the local FSA office.