

JUNE 2016



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Niobrara County FSA Updates

Niobrara County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Tommy Stephens

Farm Loan Manager:
Duane Wisroth
(307) 532-4880

Program Technician:
Kimberly Nusbaum

County Committee:
Robert Freeman
Jason ZumBrunnen
Joe Kruse

Carol Geisinger, COC
Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:

County Committee Elections

Nominations are now open for candidates for this year's County Committee election. This year's election will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, which is the southeastern portion of the county.

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Important Election Dates

June 15, 2016

The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>

Aug. 1, 2016

Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 7, 2016

Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2016

Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2017

Newly elected county committee members take office

Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process, approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for both direct farm ownership and operating loans is \$300,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating 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).