



NEWSLETTER



Park County FSA Office

1017 Highway 14A
Powell, WY 82435

Phone: 307-754-9411
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Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Darla Rhodes, County Executive Director
Kathleen Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer
Tom Schambow, Farm Loan Officer
Trainee
Marcia Shuler, Program Technician

County Committee

Klodette Stroh, Chairperson
Lynn George, Vice-Chairperson
Michael Hogg, Regular Member

FSA Home Page

www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page

www.usda.gov

PARK COUNTY NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Crop Reports

The spring crop reporting season is coming up fast. The deadline to file a crop report is **July 15, 2016**. Reports filed after this date may be subject to a late-filed fee.

A “crop report” is the reporting of what your fields are planted to. Programs that require crop reports for program participation are ARC/PLC, NAP, CRP, and LFP. Crop reports should list all parties that have an interest in your cropland acreages (annual crops and perennial hay crops) and pasture grass.

The LFP program requires that anyone grazing on your land, as either a “cash” lease or “family arrangement” (such as grazing traded in exchange for labor) or “hired hands” that get grazing rights as part of their wages, be listed on the crop report with acres needed to support their livestock. You should ensure your crop report(s) reflects these situations to ensure the eligibility of other individuals grazing livestock on your land.

ARC-PLC: Enrollment Period for 2016 USDA Safety Net Coverage Ends August 1st

FSA has announced that producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices through August 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016.

Election Results

Congratulations to Klodette Stroh being elected to serve her 2nd 3-year term for LAA #1, representing the Powell and Clark Fork areas.

Klodette was elected to serve as Chairperson for the County Committee, Lynn George as the Vice-Chairperson, and Michael Hogg will serve as a Regular Member.

Thank you to Klodette, Lynn, and Michael for your willingness to represent the farmers and ranchers of Park County. And thank you to all the producers who participated by voting for your area representative.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The deadline to purchase catastrophic NAP insurance coverage on 2016 crops in Wyoming is **April 1, 2016**. The NAP service fee (basic coverage) is \$250 per crop. The 2014 Farm Bill allows producers to choose higher levels, up to 65% of their expected production at 100% of the average market price, of NAP coverage for additional premiums. Basic coverage is 55% of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50% of expected production. Participants may receive both NAP grazing payments and LFP (Livestock Forage Program) payments in the same crop year, in the event of qualifying losses. Please contact the Park County office prior to the deadline if you are interested in participating in NAP.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2017
- An application for payment by January 30, 2017.

KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office so that we can update our records accordingly:

- Individual or business name
- Address
- Phone number
- Bank account
- Sold or purchased property
- Added or dropped leased land

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 holders 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 (307) 777-7311.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

Breaking New Ground

Producers requesting USDA benefits are reminded to follow the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELCS) provisions provided in the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended. In order to maintain eligibility for USDA programs, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible land (HEL) shall ensure they are following tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements according to the provisions of an approved conservation system or conservation plan. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to breaking new ground to file an AD-1026.

Producers are also reminded to follow the Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. The 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, states that producers are ineligible for benefits if they plant agricultural commodities on wetlands that were converted after December 23, 1985 or convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

Annual reviews are conducted by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure producers follow an approved conservation system or conservation plan on highly erodible land and to ensure that identified wetlands have not been altered. Violations may lead to ineligibility for USDA program benefits.

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.

USDA Expands Microloans to Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Producers, including beginning and underserved farmers, have a new option to gain access to land. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as new and beginning farmers and ranchers look for the assistance they need to get started.

For more information regarding loans, please call Kathy or Tom at 307-754-9411.

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Dates to Remember

April 1, 2016 – Deadline to buy NAP coverage

July 15, 2016 – Crop reporting deadline

August 1, 2016 – ARC/PLC enrollment deadline

Ongoing...

NAP Loss – must be reported within 15 days of when loss is apparent

Livestock Loss – must be reported within 30 days of when loss is apparent

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.