December 2018

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

BULLETIN

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- Monthly Message From Your Local County Office
- Livestock Losses
- USDA Microloans Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

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Fremont County FSA Updates

Fremont County FSA Office

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Phone: 307-856-7524
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County Executive Director:
Annie Bryce

Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Harrell

Farm Loan Officer Trainee:
Mercedes Jauregui Guadron

Program Technicians:
Lauren Evans
Carol Zogata

County Committee:
Will O'Neal - Chairman
Jim Hellyer - Vice Chairman
Stan Horton - Member

Monthly Message From Your Local County Office

The office will be closed December 24-25, 2018 for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1, 2019 for New Year's. Federal budget closures are currently unknown.

Issues occurred this year with both Fremont County and Niobrara County Committee Elections. You may have noticed you did not receive a ballot. If you are in LAA1, which includes the Wind River Indian Reservation, ballots were not mailed and a Special Election will now be required. A Special Election will require the County Office to reopen the Nomination period and hand mail ballots to eligible voters. The County Office will contact current Nominees but new Nominees will also be accepted. **January 21, 2019** is the new deadline to receive FSA-669A Election Nominations.

We will be hand mailing election ballots by **January 25, 2019**. All enrolled Native Americans of voting age are eligible to vote. If you have an address change or do not typically receive mail from us and would like to vote. Please stop by the office to update your contact information.

Ballots will need to be returned by **February 25, 2019**.

We are here to help! If you have questions about insurance, crop reporting, livestock losses, and more, please stop in and see us.

Next County Committee Meeting: March 2019

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Livestock Losses

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

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2018 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation and submit an application for payment to their local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions..

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Microloans 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) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are 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 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).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Annie Bryce at 307-856-7524 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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