

June 2018



## Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

# BULLETIN

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## Platte County FSA Updates

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### Platte County FSA Office

1502 Progress Ct  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
Phone: 307-322-4050  
Fax: 855-415-3444

### County Executive Director:

Pam Metz

### Farm Loan Officer:

Dixie Mount

### Program Technicians:

Mitzi Mudgett  
Heidi Platt  
Kayla Mantle, Farm Loan

### County Committee:

John Watson, Chairperson  
Amy Miller, Vice Chairperson  
Del Tinsley, Member

### Next County Committee Meeting: August 16th @ 9:00am

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Pam Metz at 307-322-4050 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

### From CED Metz

Greetings Platte County Producers! Boy is it getting hot around here! When you are finished planting and need an escape from the heat, come into the county office. You can enjoy our cool air conditioning while we get your acres reported! The acreage reporting deadline is July 16th, so come see us soon!

It is that time of year again to start thinking about serving on our county committee. This year's election will be in Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA-2), Amy Miller is the incumbent. This LAA covers all of township 25 west of range 66, all of township 24 west of range 66, all of township 23 west of range 67, all of township 22 west of range 68, and township 21 west of range 69. If you or someone you know is interested in serving a three-year term on our county committee and having a say in program implementation, come fill out a nomination form. The deadline to make nominations is **August 1st**.

We know that your time is valuable, and visiting a county office is not always an option. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, recently unveiled [Farmers.gov](#), USDA's new online resource built around the needs of the people who grow our food, fuel, and fiber. Eventually it will be a one-stop website for agricultural producers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms, and apply for USDA programs. The website covers services offered by the three agencies in USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area: the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

### Upcoming Dates to remember:

- **June 15-August 15, 2018** County Committee Election nomination period is open.
- **July 4, 2018** – Office closed for Independence Day Holiday
- **July 16, 2018** – 2018 Crop Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Crops

- **August 1, 2018:** Deadline for 2018 ARC/PLC signup

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## USDA Reopens Application Period for Producers Recovering from Cattle Loss, Other Disasters

Signup Begins June 4 for Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin accepting disaster assistance program applications on June 4 from agricultural producers who suffered livestock, honeybees, farm-raised fish and other losses due to natural disasters.

USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) is reopening the application period for two disaster assistance programs in response to statutory changes made by Congress earlier this year.

Beginning June 4, FSA will accept new applications for losses for calendar year 2017 or 2018 filed under the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) or [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP). Producers who already submitted applications and received decisions on their applications for these years do not need to file again, but they can reapply if they have additional losses or their application was disapproved because it was filed late.

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which made several changes to these two disaster programs, including:

- Removing ELAP's \$20 million fiscal year funding cap, enabling FSA to pay producers' 2017 applications in full and their 2018 applications as soon as they are approved.
- Removing the per-person and legal entity annual program payment limitation of \$125,000 for LIP for 2017 and future years. (The income limitation applies as it did before, meaning producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$900,000 are not eligible.)
- Changing LIP to allow producers to receive a payment for injured livestock that are sold for a reduced price due to an eligible event. Previously, the program only covered financial loss for livestock death above normal mortality.

Producers interested in LIP or ELAP should contact their [local USDA service center](#). To apply, producers will need to provide verifiable and reliable production records and other information about their operation.

Drought, wildfires and other disasters continue to impact farmers and ranchers, and LIP and ELAP are two of many programs available through USDA to help producers recover. Learn more at <https://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

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## FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$300,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan

applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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