

December 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:

Kayla Mantle  
Mitzi Mudgett  
Heidi Platt

### County Committee:

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

## Message From the County Executive Director

I want to begin by saying we appreciate all of our Platte County FSA customers and have enjoyed working with you throughout the past year. As 2018 winds down, here are some important end-of-year reminders and updates for you.

- For the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), you have until **Jan. 15, 2019**, to enroll by signing Part D on the program form and until May 1, 2019, to provide the final 2018 total production figures. Call our office at (307) 322-4050, extension 2, if you have any questions related to this process.
- If you are planning to make a payment on any of our farm loan program loans, and want those payments identified as paid in the 2018 calendar year for tax purposes, please make sure it is postmarked by Monday, Dec. 31.
- The 2018 FSA County Committee election season ended on Dec. 3 as that was the final date to submit ballots to our office. This year Local Administrative Area (LAA) No. 2, was up for election. After all ballots were counted, Amy Miller was re-elected. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2018 COC election process.
- It's farm loan renewal season. Wyoming FSA has a variety of farm loan programs available and may be able to serve your needs. We can work in conjunction with your commercial lender through our guaranteed loan program and/or independently with you, under the

**Next County Committee Meeting: January 17th @ 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.

right circumstances, if commercial credit is becoming difficult to attain. Call (307) 322-4050, extension 2, for an appointment to discuss the options that may be available to you.

- This office can send text message notifications to remind you of important upcoming program deadlines and key policy-related information. Those interested in this service can self-subscribe by placing the phrase WYPlatte in the body of a text message and placing FSANOW (372-669) in the "To:" line. You will receive no more than two messages a month, and you can unsubscribe at any time. If you have questions about this service, or need assistance signing up, ask any of our office staff for help.

Again, we want to wish you a wonderful and safe holiday season. We look forward to serving you in 2019.

--CED Pam Metz

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## USDA Launches Second Round of Trade Mitigation Payments

USDA launched the second and final round of trade mitigation payments aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities will now be eligible to receive Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments for the second half of their 2018 production.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has been administering MFP to provide the first payments to producers since Sept. 2018 for the first 50 percent of their 2018 production. MFP provides payments to almond, cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, fresh sweet cherry, and wheat producers.

Producers need only sign-up once for the MFP to be eligible for the first and second payments. The MFP sign-up period runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Producers must complete an application by Jan. 15, 2019, but have until May 1, 2019, to certify their 2018 production.

Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

For farmers who have already applied, completed harvest, and certified their 2018 production, a second payment will be issued on the remaining 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for the specific commodity. MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers, and a combined \$125,000 for fresh sweet cherry and almond producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

For detailed information, read the full [USDA press release](#).

For more information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit <http://www.farmers.gov>.

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## USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

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## Dates to Remember

January 1—Office closed for New Year  
January 15--Final date to apply for MFP (sign Part D of CCC-910)  
January 21—Office closed for holiday

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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).