

December 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Carbon/Albany County FSA Updates

Carbon/Albany County FSA Office

101 Cypress Ave; PO Box 607
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Phone: 307-326-5657
Fax: 855-415-3441

County Executive Director:

Sheryl Hunter

Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount- 307-322-4050

County Committee:

Melinda Sims, Ryan Wilson,
Michelle Hall, Cheryl Munroe,
and Savannah Chant

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

From the CED

The livestock programs have been continued in the 2018 Farm Bill. Please make sure to notify the office if you have livestock losses, grazing losses and/or additional feed needs due to eligible weather. You must notify the County Office within 30 days of knowing that you have a loss. The Notice of Loss can be filed by a telephone call, an email, a fax, or in person.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Boles and Robin Carter! These two ladies have been elected to represent agricultural producers in Carbon and Albany counties. Mary Ann will be representing producers in the northern Carbon County area. The area served is the same area covered by the Medicine Bow Conservation District. Robin will be representing producers in north Albany County. They will both take their seats on the County Committee starting in January 2020.

Thank you to Melinda Sims and Michelle Hall! Melinda has represented the producers in north Carbon County for the last 9 years and Michelle has represented the producers in north Albany County for the last 6 years. Both ladies have brought a vast amount of knowledge to the Committee and will be missed.

USDA opened the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) for offers on December 9, 2019. While some practices under the previous Farm Bill will remain available through the continuous signup, CRP continuous signup will focus primarily on water quality with the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, and wetland and a new prairie strip. If you would like more information, please

contact the office. There currently is not a deadline to apply for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Platte County is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff at the Platte County FSA office can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Please call the county office if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

*Please remember if you will be coming into the office for the release of checks, etc. to CALL ahead of time to ensure an FLP staff member is there and will be able to help you

USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment Opens for 2019 and 2020

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2019 and 2020 crop year.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and updated both programs.

Signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020, while signup for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.

ARC and PLC have options for the farm operator who is actively farming the land as well as the owner of the land. Farm owners also have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields beginning with crop year 2020. If the farm owner and producer visit the FSA county office together, FSA can also update yield information during that visit.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sheryl Hunter at 307-326-5657 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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).