

November 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Crook County FSA Reminders

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**Crook County FSA Office:**  
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Sundance, WY 82729

Phone: 307-283-2870  
Fax: 855-415-3442

**County Executive Director:**  
Sarah Hanlon

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

**Program Technicians:**  
Susan Johnson  
Pam Schurman

**County Committee:**  
Ivan Cranston  
Jeanne Habeck  
Alan Ista  
Colter Ellsbury

### Important Dates and County Office Notes

Hi Everyone,

We have a lot of important deadlines and dates coming up. So most of my monthly slot will be focused on those. If you had Noninsured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) last year, or are eligible for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), you got a phone call from us reminding you to come in for these programs. If you have not participated in these programs, but would like to have NAP coverage, planted a fall crop, or have honey bees please schedule an appointment ASAP!

Ballots have gone out for County Committee Elections for LAA #1. Please return these to the office by December 2nd. If you did not get a ballot, and believe you should have, please contact the office to obtain one.

NAP producers, please remember that even if you decide not to hay certain fields, that those acres still count towards your production history. If there are fields you did not hay, please call and schedule an appraisal BEFORE cows are on those fields, or else those acres will receive 0 production on your production history.

Just so you are aware, our office is going to be shorthanded in the next several weeks due to trainings and other items. This makes it even more important that you call ahead and schedule an appointment. If you do call, and we are with other producers, you will get our voicemail. Please leave a

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

November 18 @ 11:00 AM

message! We do not have caller ID, and so the message you leave is the only way we have to know how we can help you.

**Deadlines and Important Dates:**

**November 15th** - Reporting deadline for fall planted crops and honey

November 26-27th - FSA office closed

November 28th - Service Center closed in observance of Thanksgiving

**December 2nd**- 2020 NAP coverage deadline for fall planted crops, perennial forage (grazing and hay), and honey.

**December 2nd**- County Committee Ballots for LAA #1 must be postmarked or received in the office.

**December 6th** - Application Deadline for Market Facilitation Program (MFP), contact the office for list of qualifying crops and livestock.

**December 9th**- Holiday Eat and Greet from 12:30-2:30, come by the office, meet your County Committee and Conservation District Board, ask any questions you may have, and enjoy some snacks!

December 25th - Office closed in observance of Christmas

January 1st - Office closed in observance of the New Year.

**January 8th**- Workshop Wednesday: 4:00 PM, location to be determined. This Workshop Wednesday will be focused towards Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. All ages and experiences are welcome, as we will be going over FSA program and participation basics, but there will be a focus on beginning producer provisions.

Remember! We offer alerts by text messages, also! The texts will often come before these important deadlines. We send no more than 2 a month. To start receiving these, text "WYCROOK" to 372-669 (FSANOW).

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## Elections for the 2019 County Committee

Voting is now open for the USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crook County Committee.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2019 election in Crook County will be conducted for the representative for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1. LAA #1 is the area north of the following: Highway 24 (from South Dakota border) to Hulett, at Hulett along highway 112 to New Haven Road, along new Haven Road to Mule Creek Road, following Mule Creek Road to Grazing Association Road and along Grazing Association Road to the Campbell County line. It is approximately the northern 1/3 of the county.

County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture in Crook County. This

means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

County committee election ballots were mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2019. The last day to return completed ballots to the Crook County USDA service center is Dec. 2, 2019.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections), or contact the office.

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## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by August 1 of the FY for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

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## Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan teams are 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 loan staff at our FSA offices 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 office, or our Farm Loan Manager, Rob Weppner at the Campbell County Office 307-682-8843, if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Sarah Hanlon](mailto:Sarah.Hanlon@aphis.usda.gov) at [307-283-2870](tel:3072832870), extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).