Laramie County Comments

The Marketing Facilitation Program deadline has been extended to December 20, 2019. If you have not applied; please do so ASAP.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is now available. Signup will run through February 28, 2020. Please call the office for more information or to make an appointment. For those of you who have a CRP contract already; please note that we will need you to sign your crop reports for CRP by July 15th.

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage Programs signups are ongoing for 2019 & 2020. 2019 Contracts need to be completed by March 15th. 2020 contracts have until June 30, 2020 to be completed.

If you have any livestock losses due to weather events; please call the office and notify us immediately. We may be able to help through the Livestock Indemnity Program.

Please remember to notify the office of any changes you may have to your address, phone numbers, land ownership/operation, or banking account information that your payments are direct deposited to. Keeping your information up-to-date is important for program signup and payment.
Laramie County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Laramie County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over and the ballots have been counted.

Dave Bowman of Burns was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) 2.

Dan Dersham of Pine Bluffs will serve as the first alternate.

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2020 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA county committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Laramie County FSA office at 307-772-2314 ext. 2.

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 Platte 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.*

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Robin B. Hudson at 307-772-2314 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).