County Office Message

We are continuing signup for the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) and are beginning 2019 and 2020 ARC/PLC signup. Alfalfa, oats, barley, wheat and triticale are eligible Lincoln County crops for the MFP program, with a payment rate of $15/acre. Additionally, producers of commercially marketed milk and hogs are eligible for a MFP payment. We will be sending out postcards for appointments in October to assist producers in completing the necessary forms.

We would also like to remind you of the Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) that we have available through our office. These are nine-month loans at a low interest rate that allow you to market your commodity later but get the money now that will help your cash flow. It’s a fairly easy process that is a good marketing tool for you. If you are interested in a MAL, stop by our office for more information. Covered commodities include barley, wheat, and oats.

Wool producers, there is currently a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) available on ungraded wool. To be eligible for the LDP, the producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity, defined as having title, possession, and control of the commodity; and responsible for loss or damage to the commodity. All related application forms must be completed at the local FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest. The deadline to apply for 2019 wool LDP is January 31, 2020.

Reminders:
Next County Committee Meeting: October 23, 9AM

NAP: Please submit your hay production for 2019 if you have hay coverage. Don’t forget to file a notice of loss this year if you have had damage to your crops or pasture. Please also note that starting this year we will need updated leases on file for NAP. This is a new provision in the 2018 Farm Bill.

FARM RECORDS: Please keep us updated of any changes to your farming operation, including but not limited to: new entity formations, change of land interests, banking changes, etc.

TEXT: FSANOW text messaging provides the most up to date alerts from our office. Simply text WYLINCOLN to FSANOW (372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time. This is a great tool to keep you informed of deadlines, please sign up today!

Dates to Remember:

Nov 11, 2019 - County Office Closed - Veterans Day Holiday
Nov 28, 2019 - County Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 1, 2019 - 2020 NAP Application for Coverage Deadline
Dec 2, 2019 - Deadline to return County Committee Election Ballots
Dec 6, 2019 - 2019 MFP signup deadline

USDA Opens 2019 Enrollment for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs

Agricultural producers can now enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, two popular safety net programs, for the 2019 crop year. Interested producers must sign up for either program by March 15, 2020.

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and made updates to these two USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs. ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. PLC program provides income support payments on historical base acres when the price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

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 grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Updated provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill allow producers with an interest in a farm to enroll and elect coverage in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for program year 2019. The election applies to both the 2019 and 2020 crop years. If a 2019 election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2020, the election defaults to the current elections of the crops on the farm established under the 2014 Farm Bill. No payments will be earned in 2019 if the election defaults.

For crop years 2021 through 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.
Once the 2019 election and enrollment are completed, producers on the farm for 2020 can complete an enrollment contract for the 2020 crop year beginning Oct. 7, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.

Although 2019 enrollment begins Sept. 3, 2019 and must occur first, a producer waiting until Oct. 7, 2019 to enroll is afforded the opportunity to enroll in either program for both 2019 and 2020 during the same office visit. During this time, farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that takes effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update may be completed during the same office visit.

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University are offering web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. These decision tools can be found at fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Producers are reminded that enrolling in ARC or PLC programs can impact eligibility for some forms of crop insurance. Producers who elect and enroll in PLC also have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers of covered commodities who elect ARC are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download our program fact sheet or our 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet, or visit fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

### Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA’s farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

Key changes include:

- **Operating Loan limit increased from $300,000 to $400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from $1.429 million to $1.75 million.** Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
- **Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from $300,000 to $600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from $1.429 million to $1.75 million.** Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.
- Producers can now receive both a $50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a $50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined $50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Dee Harbach at 307-886-9001 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).