

November 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Lincoln County FSA Updates

Lincoln County FSA Office

County Office Message

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County Executive Director:
Dee Harbach

Farm Loan Manager:
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Program Technicians:
Kresta Hedges

County Committee:
Kelly Johnson
Kim Clark
Deanna Clark

The 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP) deadline is approaching. Please contact our office if you planted alfalfa, oats, barley, wheat or triticale in 2019 and/or 2018, as you may be eligible for a payment of \$15/acre. The deadline is **December 6, 2019**.

Reminders:

NAP: Please submit your application fee by **December 2, 2019** if you want to cover your crops with NAP in 2020. Submit 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.

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

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 28, 2019 - County Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 2, 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 Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of commercial crops for which insurance coverage is not available in order to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevent crop planting.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

NAP Service Fees

For all coverage levels, the new NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. These amounts reflect a \$75 service fee increase for crop, county or multi-county coverage. The fee increases apply to obtaining NAP coverage on crops on or after April 8, 2019.

NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans

The 2018 Farm Bill NAP amendments specify that qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are now eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.*"

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

Elections for the 2019 County Committee

Voting is now open for the USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Lincoln 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 Lincoln County will be conducted for the representative for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, the upper valley.

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 Name 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 will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2019. The last day to return completed ballots to the Lincoln County USDA service center is Dec. 2, 2019.

Kelly Johnson is nominated in LAA #2 Lincoln County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2020.

Kelly Johnson resides in LAA#2, and has produced hay and raised cattle for many years.

Kelly Johnson is willing to serve if elected.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Supervised Credit

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan programs are considered supervised credit. Unlike loans from a commercial lender, FSA loans are intended to be temporary in nature. Therefore, it is our goal to help you graduate to commercial credit, and our farm loan staff is available to help borrowers through training and credit counseling.

The FSA team will help borrowers identify their goals to ensure financial success. Through this process, FSA staff will advise borrowers in developing strategies and a plan to meet your operation's goals and graduate to commercial credit. Ultimately, the borrower is responsible for the success of the farming operation, but FSA's staff will help in an advisory role to provide the tools necessary to help you achieve your operational goals and manage your finances.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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).