

November 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Niobrara County FSA Updates

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### Niobrara County FSA Office

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### County Executive

**Director:** Laura Kessler

### Program Technician:

Kimberly Nusbaum

### Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount (307) 322-4050

### County Committee:

Jason ZumBrunnen  
Joe Kruse  
Kurt Gaukel

Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

### Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

It appears that we have officially skipped fall and are right into winter. With that being said, please remember our Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), that potentially compensates producers for livestock losses due to adverse weather such as blizzard, winter storm, lightning strike and tornado, just to name a few. Just remember, if you ever lose livestock due to adverse weather conditions, please contact the office within 30 days to put a notice of loss on file.

We have several deadlines coming quickly. The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) insurance purchase date for pastures and hay is December 2, 2019 for the upcoming year. This program insures against adverse weather related losses such as drought and hail, among others.

Our Marketing Facilitation Program (MFP) will be coming to a close December 6, 2019. This program compensates producers for specified crops due to current tariff situations. Crops were primarily the same as 2018 MFP but for 2019 it added alfalfa and a few other crops.

Please do not forget to vote in this year's County Committee election. Ballots are to be returned or postmarked by December 2, 2019. Those of you in LAA 3 which is the southeast portion of Niobrara County, from the Hat Creek Road area and south, and from just west of Lusk and east of there. Please

Next County Committee Meeting: vote to select your representative, and you can always write in a candidate  
December 5, 2019 as well.

It is finally time to start signing up for the Agricultural Risk Coverage / Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) program for 2019 and 2020. Producers who have base acres on their farm have the option to make a program election now that we are in a new farm bill.

As you can see it is a busy time in the office. Please call ahead for an appointment or at least to let us know you are coming in so we can have as much ready for you as possible. The office would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

**Please note the following important dates and deadlines:**

November 28, 2019 – OFFICE CLOSED – Thanksgiving Day

December 2, 2019 – Deadline to purchase 2020 NAP Coverage

December 6, 2019 – Deadline to apply for Market Facilitation Program benefits

Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing livestock loss – File LIP Notice of Loss

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## Elections for the 2019 County Committee

Voting is now open for the USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Niobrara 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 Niobrara County will be conducted for the representative for Local Administrative Area (LAA): #3, the southeast portion of Niobrara County, from the Hat Creek Road area and south, and from just west of Lusk and east of there.

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 Niobrara 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 Niobrara 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).

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## Farm Loan Graduation Reminder

FSA Direct Loans are considered a temporary source of credit that is available to producers who do not meet normal underwriting criteria for commercial banks.

FSA periodically conducts Direct Loan graduation reviews to determine a borrower's ability to graduate to commercial credit. If the borrower's financial condition has improved to a point where they can refinance their debt with commercial credit, they will be asked to obtain other financing and partially or fully pay off their FSA debt.

By the end of a producer's operating cycle, the Agency will send a letter requesting a current balance sheet, actual financial performance and a projected farm budget. The borrower has 30 days to return the required financial documents. This information will be used to evaluate the borrower's potential for refinancing to commercial credit.

If a borrower meets local underwriting criteria, FSA will send the borrower's name, loan type, balance sheet and projected cash flow to commercial lenders. The borrower will be notified when loan information is sent to local lenders.

If any lenders are interested in refinancing the borrower's loan, FSA will send the borrower a letter with a list of lenders that are interested in refinancing the loan. The borrower must contact the lenders and complete an application for commercial credit within 30 calendar days.

If a commercial lender rejects the borrower, the borrower must obtain written evidence that specifies the reasons for rejection and submit to their local FSA farm loan office.

If a borrower fails to provide the requested financial information or to graduate, FSA will notify the borrower of noncompliance, FSA's intent to accelerate the loan, and appeal rights.

**\*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.**

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Laura Kessler](#) at [307-334-2953](#), extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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