

November 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Platte County FSA Updates

Platte County FSA Office

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Message from the CED

I know some of you are still finishing up harvest. Please make sure that you are aware of upcoming program deadlines so you don't miss something. In the office we are working on the ARC/PLC election and sign-up for 2019 & 2020 crop years. Owners must elect which program they wish to enroll in and also have the option to update yields on crops with base acres. See the article below for more information.

If you are an FSA program participant and live in Local Administrative Area 3, you should have received a ballot earlier this month for the FSA County Committee (COC) election. This year's candidate in LAA 3 is Charles (Chuck) Maike II. Chuck is a wheat producer in the Chugwater/Slater area. Please take a moment to fill out your ballot and return it to the office. Even though there is only one candidate nominated, it is important to us to have them returned.

There are still a few 2019 Market Facilitation Program applications that need to be signed. The deadline to enroll in this program is Dec. 6, 2019. **We encourage you to call the office to check on your eligibility.** You may have heard that a 2nd round of payments was authorized, those are only for counties who had county payments rates higher than \$15/acre. Platte county was \$15/acre so all of the Platte county crops were paid 100% in the first go-round. If you had ground physically

Next County Committee Meeting: Dec 5, 2019 @ 9am

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Pam Metz at 307-322-4050 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339

located elsewhere, you may be eligible for an additional payment. If you have questions, please call the office.

Additionally, we would 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 **corn, barley, wheat, and oats**.

Finally, the State of Wyoming is not processing organic cost-share applications this year. If you had eligible organic certification expenses that were paid between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, you can come into the FSA office and apply for your cost-share. Funding is limited so this is a first come, first serve program. Please contact the office for more information.

Dates to Remember:

Nov 28, 2019 - County Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 1, 2019- 2020 NAP Application for Coverage Deadline for honey, grass and perennial forage
Dec 2, 2019 - Deadline to return County Committee Election Ballots
Dec 6, 2019 - 2019 MFP signup deadline
Dec 13, 2019 – Dairy Margin Coverage 2020 signup deadline
Dec 25, 2019 – County Office Closed - Christmas Holiday
Jan 1, 2020 - County Office Closed - New Year's Day Holiday

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pam Metz, CED

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 \(RMA\)](https://fsa.usda.gov/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.

Platte County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of December 1, 2019 for biennial and perennial forage crops and honey, April 1, 2020 for all other crops.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

The following crops in Platte County have a NAP application deadline of December 1, 2019: biennial and perennial forage crops and honey.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

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.

For all coverage levels, the 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.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact the Platte County FSA office at (307)322-4050 Ext 2 or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

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.

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).