

NOVEMBER 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

*GovDelivery*

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## Sheridan ~ Johnson County FSA Updates

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### Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office **From the Desk of Linda Benzel, CED**

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**County Executive Director:**  
Linda Benzel

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Rob Weppner  
[rob.weppner@usda.gov](mailto:rob.weppner@usda.gov)  
307-682-8843 ext 2

**Program Technicians:**  
Staci L. Steiner  
Justine Scheeler

**County Committee:**  
Raymon Turk, Chairman  
John Buyok, Vice Chairman  
Thad Stoltz, Member  
Ray Daly, Member  
Gerry Miller, Member  
Susan Moyes, SD Advisor

Hello Producers,

*Thad C. Stoltz is nominated in LAA 3* Sheridan~Johnson County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Stoltz resides in Arvada and raises sheep and has had a cow/calf operation for the past 10 years; along with a custom calving enterprise.

He is an active member of the FSA COC, Johnson County Cattlemen's and has recently been nominated to sit on a committee to help produce a resolution for the sage grouse (election pending at time of printing.)

We would like to thank Thad for his willingness to serve the producers of Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

The 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 4, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices or to be **postmarked, is Dec. 2, 2019.**

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

**Next County Committee Meeting:**  
Thursday, December 5, 2019

### **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.

### **DEADLINES:**

Ballots for LAA3 due in office by Monday, December 2, 2019

2020 NAP application for coverage signup deadline is Monday, December 2, 2019

MFP deadline signup Friday, December 6, 2019

Happy Thanksgiving!

Linda Benzel, CED

<https://www.usda.gov/tellsonny> Tell Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue about your experience with FSA or NRCS.~

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## **Actively Engaged Provisions for Non-Family Joint Operations or Entities**

Many Farm Service Agency programs require all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, to be "actively engaged in farming." This means participants provide a significant contribution to the farming operation, whether it is capital, land, equipment, active personal labor and/or management. For entities, each partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest, must contribute active personal labor and/or management to the operation on a regular basis that is identifiable and documentable as well as separate and distinct from contributions of any other member. Members of joint operations must have a share of the profits or losses from the farming operation commensurate with the member's contributions to the operation and must make contributions to the farming operation that are at risk for a loss, with the level of risk being commensurate with the member's claimed share on the farming operation.

Joint operations comprised of non-family members or partners, stockholders or persons with an ownership in the farming operation must meet additional payment eligibility provisions. Joint operations comprised of family members are exempt from these additional requirements. For 2016 and subsequent crop years, non-family joint operations can have one member that may use a significant contribution of active personal management exclusively to meet the requirements to be determined "actively engaged in farming." The person or member will be defined as the farm manager for the purposes of administering these management provisions.

Non-family joint operations may request to add up to two additional managers for their farming operation based on the size and/or complexity of the operation. If additional farm managers are requested and approved, all members who contribute management are required to complete form CCC-902MR, Management Activity Record. The farm manager should use the form to record management activities including capital, labor and agronomics, which includes crop selection, planting decisions, acquisition of inputs, crop management and marketing decisions. One form should be used for each month and the farm manager should enter the number of hours of time spent for each activity under the date of the month the

actions were completed. The farm manager must also document if each management activity was completed on the farm or remotely.

The records and supporting business documentation must be maintained and timely made available for review by the appropriate FSA reviewing authority, if requested.

If the farm manager fails to meet these requirements, their contribution of active personal management to the farming operation for payment eligibility purposes will be disregarded and their payment eligibility status will be re-determined for the applicable program year.

In some instances, additional persons or members of a non-family member joint operation who meet the definition of farm manager may also be allowed to use such a contribution of active personal management to meet the eligibility requirements. However, under no circumstances may the number of farm managers in a non-family joint operation exceed a total of three in any given crop and program year.

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## Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan teams are 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 loan staff at our FSA offices 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 office, or our Farm Loan Manager, Rob Weppner at the Campbell County Office 307-682-8843, Ext 2 if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Linda Benzel](mailto:LindaBenzel@fda.usda.gov) at [307-683-4202](tel:3076834202) or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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