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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Weston County FSA Office

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County Executive

Director: Peggy Livingston,
ext. 101

Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

Program Technician:

Sherie Hilgenkamp, ext. 100

County Committee:

Tim Tysdal, Chairman
Chuck Grieves, Vice Chairman
Randy Oleson, Member
Robin Riesland, Minority Advisor

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

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

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

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:

December 5, 2019 at 1PM

Eligible voters in local administrative area 1 (LAA#1), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. To determine if you are in LAA#1, please contact our office.

Weston County LAA#1 Nominees to serve as County Committee member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2020 are:

- Harry Tavegia – Harry Tavegia has lived in LAA#1 for 58 years. He has operated his ranch for 40 years, producing cattle, forage and grain. He has served on the Inyan Kara Gazing Association Board, served as Chairman of the Soil Conservation Board as well as being a former Chairman of our County Committee. Harry will fairly and equitably represent the producers if he is elected and will support the farmers and rancher to get the most out of each program. Harry is willing to serve if elected.
- Justin Mills – Justin Mills has lived in LAA#1 for 6.5 years. He grew up on a ranch near Devil's Tower where they raised cow-calf pairs and farmed. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Agriculture Education. He now raises cow-calf pairs locally and does custom grazing for beef and sheep. He currently serves on the Farm Bureau Board and with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He has worked as CEO and General Manager of the Norther International Livestock Exposition (NILE) and served on the Billings Ag Chamber Committee. Justin is willing to serve if elected.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2019 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Livestock Inventory Records

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory, livestock or feed losses, or production records as applicable to the disaster assistance program. This documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock;
- Inventory records supported by birth recordings, purchase or sales receipts;
- Documentation showing evidence of loss such as producer journals, photographs or video recordings, or other sources;
- Contracts and lease information;
- Documentation of livestock movement from lost grazing pastures;

- Receipts for feed supplies or transportation costs;
- Number of gallons of water transported to livestock; and/or
- Bales counts and weights separated by hay crop species

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.

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 FSA Office 307-682-8843, Ext 2 if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA.

Dates to Remember

December 1, 2019	NAP signup deadline for 2020 Crop Year.
December 2, 2019	LAA#1 Ballots must be returned to the county office.
December 31, 2019	ELAP Application for Payment submission deadline.
December 6, 2019	2019 Marketing Facilitation Program signup deadline.

March 1, 2019	2019 LIP Application for Payment filing deadline.
March 15, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2019 ARC/PLC .
June 30, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2020 ARC/PLC .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAP Notice of Loss must be filed the earlier of <u>15 days</u> of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date. • LIP Notice of Loss must be filed <u>30 calendar days</u> of when the loss is first apparent. • Leases and/or Land Ownership including operational changes must be reported within <u>30 calendar days</u> of change to avoid late fees, repayment of funds issued and/or ineligibility for program participation. 	

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact Peggy Livingston at 307-746-2701 extension 2 or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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).