

December 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Weston County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results](#)
- [Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#)
- [Sign in/Sign up!](#)
- [Cover Crop Guidelines](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

Weston County FSA Updates

Weston County FSA Office

1225 Washington Blvd, Ste. 2
Newcastle, WY 82701
Phone: 307-746-2701, ext. 2
Fax: 307-746-2870 or
855.415.3437

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

Weston County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Weston County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over and the ballots have been counted.

Harry Tavegia of Osage was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) 1. Justin Mills of Upton will serve as the first alternate.

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2020 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA county committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make

Next County Committee Meeting:

January 22, 2020 at 1PM

important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Weston County FSA office at 307-746-2701.

Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm Service Agency would like to remind farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their loans, of key items for maintaining loan collateral. It is required that borrowers must obtain prior consent, or approval, by either FSA, for direct loans, or by a guaranteed lender, for any transaction affecting real estate security. Examples of these transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind;
- Easements of any kind;
- Subordinations;
- Partial releases, and
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements set forth in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](#).

Sign in/Sign up!

Farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers have new online options to access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Through USDA's new streamlined process, producers doing business **as an individual** can now register, track and manage their applications for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) on the secure and convenient www.farmers.gov. Producers doing business as an individual first need to sign up for the Level 2 eAuthentication access. Currently USDA eAuthentication does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses, corporations, other entities or for anyone acting on behalf of another individual or entity.

- Step 1: Create and online account at www.eauth.usda.gov

- Step 2: Complete identity verification by either using the online self-service identity verification method or by completing the identity verification in-person at your USDA Service Center.
- Step 3: You're enrolled
- Step 4: Contact your local USDA Service Center to have your new Level 2 account linked with your USDA customer record
- Step 5: You're ready to Log In

Or go to your local USDA Service Center and our supportive staff will help you sign up for Level 2 Access right in the office! They will get you online so you can create an online account at <https://www.farmers.gov/sign-in>. You'll complete identity verification right on the spot. You're enrolled! Users with a secure Level 2 eAuthentication ID linked to their USDA customer record can apply for select USDA programs, view and print farm maps and farm records data. Enrolling is easy! Visit [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://www.farmers.gov/sign-in) to learn more.

To locate a service center near you or use online services not requiring eAuthentication access, visit www.farmers.gov. For technical assistance, call the eAuthentication help desk at 1-800-457-3642.

Cover Crop Guidelines

Recently the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) worked together to develop consistent, simple and a flexible policy for cover crop practices.

The termination and reporting guidelines were updated for cover crops.

Termination:

The cover crop termination guidelines provide the timeline for terminating cover crops, are based on zones and apply to non-irrigated cropland. To view the zones and additional guidelines visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/> and click "Cover Crop Termination Guidelines."

Reporting:

The intended use of cover only will be used to report cover crops. This includes crops that were terminated by tillage and reported with an intended use code of green manure. An FSA policy change will allow cover crops to be hayed and grazed. Program eligibility for the cover crop that is being hayed or grazed will be determined by each specific program.

If the crop reported as cover only is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated properly, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop.

Crops reported with an intended use of cover only will not count toward the total cropland on the farm. In these situations a subsequent crop will be reported to account for all cropland on the farm.

Cover crops include grasses, legumes, and forbs, for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes. Cover crops are primarily used for erosion control, soil health improvement, and water quality improvement. The cover crop may be terminated by natural causes, such as frost, or intentionally terminated through chemical application, crimping, rolling, tillage or cutting. A cover crop managed and terminated according to NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines is **not** considered a crop for crop insurance purposes.

Cover crops can be planted: with no subsequent crop planted, before a subsequent crop, after prevented planting acreage, after a planted crop, or into a standing crop.

Dates to Remember

December 20, 2019	Extended deadline to apply for 2019 Market Facilitation Program
December 25, 2019	Office is closed
December 31, 2019	ELAP Application for Payment submission deadline
January 1, 2020	Office is closed
March 1, 2020	2019 LIP Application for Payment filing deadline
March 15, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs (ARC/PLC)
June 30, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs (ARC/PLC)
July 15, 2020	Acreage (Crop) Reporting deadline for Spring Planted Crops and Perennial Forage
November 15, 2020	Acreage (Crop) Reporting deadline for Apiculture (honey) and Fall-Seeded Small Grains

- **NAP Notice of Loss for Crops** must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date.
- **LIP Notice of Loss for Livestock Losses** must be filed within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.
- **Leases and/or Land Ownership including operational changes** must be reported within 30 calendar days 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).