

January 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

**GovDelivery**

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## Carbon/Albany County FSA Updates

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### Carbon/Albany County FSA Office

101 Cypress Ave; PO Box 607  
Saratoga, WY 82331

Phone: 307-326-5657  
Fax: 855-415-3441

**County Executive Director:**  
Sheryl Hunter

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Dixie Mount- 307-322-4050

**County Committee:** Ryan  
Wilson, Cheryl Munroe, Savannah  
Chant, Robin Carter, and May  
Ann Boles

**Next County Committee  
Meeting: TBD**

**Deadlines:**

**Jan. 30** - last day to file  
application for payment under  
ELAP

### From the CED

The livestock programs have been continued in the 2018 Farm Bill. Please make sure to notify the office if you have livestock losses, grazing losses and/or additional feed needs due to eligible weather. You must notify the County Office within 30 days of knowing that you have a loss. The Notice of Loss can be filed by a telephone call, an email, a fax, or in person.

If you filed a notice of loss for additional feed needs for the winter/spring of 2018-2019 under the **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program**, you have until **January 30, 2020** to provide the required documentation for the payment. Please contact the office to find out exactly what documentation is needed before the deadline.

If you filed a 2019 notice of loss for livestock losses due to eligible weather conditions under the **Livestock Indemnity Program**, you have until **March 30, 2020** to submit the documentation required to complete the application for payment.

If you have not submitted your 2019 hay production records, please send them to the office as soon as possible.

If you know of someone that is not receiving this monthly newsletter, please guide them to the following link:

To receive GovDelivery email notifications, subscribe online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe) or contact the (Name) County FSA office for subscription assistance. Producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by

**March 30** - deadline to file application for payment on 2019 Livestock Losses under LIP

topic, by state or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

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## Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

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## USDA Announces Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

USDA opened signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on December 9, 2019. The deadline for agricultural producers to sign up for general CRP is February 28, 2020, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

CRP has 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill lifted the cap to 27 million acres. This means farmers and ranchers have a chance to enroll in CRP for the first time or continue their participation for another term.

By enrolling in CRP, producers are improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and restoring habitat for wildlife. This in turn spurs hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, and other economic development across rural America.

### CRP Enrollment Options

#### *General Signup*

CRP general signup will be held annually. The competitive general signup will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

#### *Continuous Signup*

While some practices under SAFE will remain available through continuous signup, CRP continuous signup will focus primarily on water quality with the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands and a new prairie strip.

USDA will also be working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) partners to relaunch CREP continuous options in each state under new statutory provisions. CREP will continue to target high-priority local, state or regional conservation concerns.

### *Grasslands Signups*

CRP Grasslands signup helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. A separate CRP Grasslands signup will be offered each year following general signup.

### *Pilot Programs*

Later in 2020, (FSA will roll out pilot programs within CRP: CLEAR 30, which allows contracts expiring with CLEAR practices to be reenrolled in 30-year contracts and in the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) in the prairie pothole region. More information on these programs will be announced in the new year.

### *Land Transition*

The CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is an option for producers interested in transitioning land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants may have a lease less than five years with an option to purchase, and they have two years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements.

### **Previously Expired Land**

Land enrolled in CRP under a 15-year contract that expired in September 2017, 2018 or 2019, may be eligible for enrollment if there was no opportunity for re-enrollment and the practice under the expired contract has been maintained.

### **CRP Rates and Payments**

FSA recently posted updated soil rental rates for CRP. County average rates are posted on the [CRP Statistics webpage](#). Soil rental rates are statutorily prorated at 90 percent for continuous signup and 85 percent for general signup. The rental rates will be assessed annually. Under continuous signup, producers also receive incentives, including a signup incentive payment and a practice incentive payment.

To enroll in CRP, contact your local FSA county office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sheryl Hunter at 307-326-5657 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).