

Cowboy Country Connection



NEWSLETTER



March, 2020

Carbon/Albany County

101 Cypress Ave.

PO Box 607

Saratoga, WY 82331

307-326-5657 x 2

Fax: 855-415-3441

<http://www.usda.gov/wy>

Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Ryan Wilson, Chairperson

Cheryl Munroe, Vice-Chairman

Savanah Chant, Mary Ann Boles,

and Robin Carter

Farm Service Agency

Sheryl Hunter, CED

Dixie Mount, FLM- Platte County,

307-322-4050

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Mark Shirley, DC Saratoga

Mike Boardman, Medicine Bow

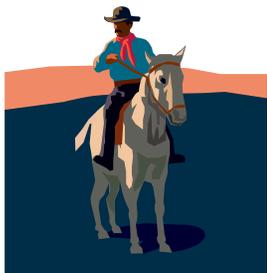
379-2221

Caleb Owens, Baggs

383-7860

Ruben Vasquez, DC Laramie

745-3698



FSA Encourages Producers to Enroll Soon in Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs (ARC/PLC)

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers to enroll now in the Agriculture Risk Loss (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. March 15, 2020 is the enrollment deadline for the 2019 crop year.

Although more than 200,000 producers have enrolled to date, FSA anticipates 1.5 million producers will enroll for ARC and PLC. By enrolling soon, producers can beat the rush as the deadline nears.

FSA offices have multiple programs competing for the time and attention of our staff. Because of the importance and complexities of the ARC and PLC programs; and to ensure FSA meets your program delivery expectations, please do not wait to start the enrollment process. Call your FSA county office and make an appointment soon to ensure your elections are made and contracts signed well ahead of the deadlines.

ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms.

The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long

eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at

www.fsa.usda.gov

Click on the small **E-MAIL UPDATES** icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

ARC/PLC continued:

grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Until March 15, producers who have not yet enrolled in ARC or PLC for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office unless yield updates are requested. Additionally, farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields that take effect beginning with crop year 2020. If the owner accompanies the producer to the office, the yield update and enrollments may be completed during the same office visit.

Important Dates

March 15- Deadline for ARC/PLC signup for 2019

Before Shearing- Sign the CCC-633EZ for wool LDP

30 Days- Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses within 30 days of realizing the loss.

15 Days- after realizing a loss to file a Notice of Loss on NAP covered crops.

COC Meeting- TBD

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should notify the county FSA office staff in person or by phone. This service is provided for office visits and any special event sponsored by FSA.

Wool Triggers Loan Deficiency payment in Carbon and Albany Counties

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2019 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Marketing assistance loans are available for the following commodities: wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, extra-long staple cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice, soybeans and other oilseeds (including sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed), dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, graded and non-graded wool, mohair, unshorn pelts, honey and peanuts.

Producers who are eligible for marketing loans, but choose to forgo the loan, are eligible for LDPs if the posted county price falls below the county loan rate. Producers also can purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. Producers can check their daily LDP rates online at fsa.usda.gov

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA's website fsa.usda.gov.

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency 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. To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the form call (866-632-9992). Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail: USDA, Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20250-9410, fax to (202) 690-7442, or email to program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

USDA Extends Deadline for Input on Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Rule

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is extending the deadline to March 20, 2020, to submit public comments on its interim rule for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). NRCS is asking for public feedback on two additional questions and made several clarifying changes to the rule preamble.

In the [updated rule](#), NRCS:

- Asked whether the Healthy Forest Reserve Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program should be used primarily to help protect agricultural lands with forest lands that are beyond what is eligible for enrollment as an ACEP Agricultural Land Easement;
- Asked for input on streamlining access to ACEP and ranking criteria for applications for the program;
- Corrected the docket number and URL to view a copy of the Environmental Assessment;
- Clarified that the revised definition for "wetland restoration" can be found under §1468.3 of the interim rule and the definition of "wetland restoration" in the Jan. 6, 2020, preamble was the prior definition.

Submitting Comments

NRCS invites comments on this interim rule through March 20 on the [Federal Register](#). Electronic comments must be submitted through [regulations.gov](#) under Docket ID NRCS-2019-0006. All written comments received also will be publicly available on [regulations.gov](#).

NRCS will evaluate public comments to determine whether additional changes are needed to the regulation. The agency plans on publishing a final rule following its review of the public comments.

Applying for ACEP

ACEP aids landowners and eligible entities with conserving, restoring, and protecting wetlands, productive agricultural lands, and grasslands. NRCS accepts ACEP applications year-round, but applications are ranked and funded by enrollment periods that are set locally.

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](#).

The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.

Producers who receive survey questionnaires should respond quickly and online if possible.

The results of the surveys help determine the structure of USDA farm programs, such as soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program and prices and yields used for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. This county-level data is critical for USDA farm payment determinations. Survey responses also help associations, businesses and policymakers advocate for their industry and help educate others on the importance of agriculture.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS data is available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](#). Watch a video on how NASS data is used at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zinh26io&feature=youtu.be>.

Carbon/Albany County FSA Office
PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331

Greetings Carbon and Albany County customers!

Wow, we are already into March! The days are getting longer, and spring is right around the corner. As everyone will be getting busy with calving and lambing soon, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of available programs and upcoming deadlines.

February 28th, the final deadline to submit a Conservation Reserve program (CRP) general offer for this year's signup.

March 1st, the final date to submit your application for payment for 2019 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) livestock losses.

March 15th, final day to make a 2019 election for the Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) program. Please do not let these program deadlines slip if you have base acres.

Sheep producers, please be aware that there is currently a \$0.02/pound Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for ungraded wool right now and if your micros test 29 or higher, there is a \$0.06/pound payment. Please contact the office to sign the page 1 of form CCC-633EZ prior to loss of beneficial interest in your wool. For most of you, beneficial interest is lost at shearing. Once you have delivered your wool to market or have a weight, we can complete your LDP application for payment, if there is still a payment in effect. More detailed information can be found in this bulletin.

Lastly, you must file a Notice of Loss for livestock losses under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and/or additional feed purchases under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) within 30 days of knowing that you have a loss or additional feed expenses resulting from an eligible weather event. You must also file a Notice of Loss under the Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of knowing you have a loss due to an eligible weather event.

Best wishes for a successful calving and lambing season!