

February 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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- [County Office Notes](#)
- [Livestock Records and Livestock Losses](#)
- [Direct Loans](#)

Crook County FSA Updates

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County Committee:

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Jeanne Habeck
Alan Ista
Colter Ellsbury

County Office Notes

Hi Everyone!

I will begin by reminding you that if you have received a letter or email from our office, or a postcard from the national office regarding ARC/PLC enrollment, that deadline is coming up soon! The deadline to complete this process is **March 16, 2020!** Call and make your appointment as soon as possible.

This deadline is in an unusual spot this year, so even if you think you already took care of those items, if you received correspondence from us specific to this program, it means you have **not completed all of the necessary steps** for your 2019 enrollment!

This program is centered around "base acres" on your farm, established through historical plantings, and so even if you no longer plant annual commodities on your farm, the receipt of a postcard, letter, or email on this program indicates the farm still meets the requirements for the program.

Again, the 2019 election and enrollment deadline for ARC/PLC is March 16th, 2020! Make your appointment, today!

As calving is getting underway, and a storm is in progress, we would like to remind you to report your livestock losses due to adverse weather within 30

Next County Committee Meeting:

March 5, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

days of the loss being apparent. Losses due to eligible adverse weather events may be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) available through our office. Please see the article on documenting losses below, or call the office to find out more about the program.

There is still a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) available for wool. To clarify, based on some questions we have received, this program is available to all wool producers, the payment is not a loan, and you do not need to have a loan through us to be eligible. The payment being available simply means the market price for wool is below our loan rate for the commodity. Please note, you have to begin the sign up for this program while **you still have beneficial interest in the commodity.** Beneficial interest is defined as having title, possession and control of the commodity, and you are still responsible for loss of or damage to the commodity. So, please get in to see us soon, if you intend to participate in this program.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- February 28, 2020 - 2019 General CRP Signup ends.
- March 16, 2020—2019 ARC/PLC Enrollment Deadline
- April 1, 2020—NAP Coverage Deadline for Spring Planted Crops
- April 8, 2020, 2:00 PM—Wednesday Workshop: Livestock Losses and Loan Deficiency Payments
- June 30, 2020—2020 ARC/PLC Enrollment Deadline
- July 8, 2020, 6:00 PM—Wednesday Workshop: Acreage Reporting, Production, & Other Current Programs
- July 15, 2020—Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Planted Crops, Perennial Hay, and Grazing
- July 15, 2020—Production Reporting Deadline for 2019 Crops

ALSO REMEMBER:

- Report livestock, honeybee, or associated feed losses within 30 days
- Apply for wool LDP before losing beneficial interest
- Report crop losses for NAP within 15 days
- Update your records in the office with any operator changes, entity changes, land purchases, or new/renewed leases

Livestock Records and Livestock Losses

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster. This can include extreme and damaging weather events such as blizzards, winter storms, extreme cold, lightening, flooding, etc.

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 records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Documentation relating to the weather event or conditions

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

Direct Loans

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating Loans to producers who want to establish, maintain or strengthen their farm or ranch. FSA loan officers process approve and service direct loans.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is \$600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is \$400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sarah Hanlon at 307-283-2870 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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