

March 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Crook County FSA Updates

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### **Crook County FSA Office:**

PO Box 1070  
117 South 21st Street  
Sundance, WY 82729

Phone: 307-283-2870  
Fax: 855-415-3442

### **County Executive Director:**

Sarah Hanlon

### **Farm Loan Manager:**

Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

### **Program Technicians:**

Susan Johnson  
Pam Schurman

### **County Committee:**

Ivan Cranston  
Jeanne Habeck

### **County Office Notes**

Hi Everyone,

I have lots of reminders for you today!

As calving is getting into full swing, I would like to remind you about our LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program). This program helps with livestock losses due to eligible adverse weather events. Livestock losses must be reported within 30 days of the loss being apparent. We encourage producers to contact the office even if they are unsure if the weather event qualifies, or if they do not think they have lost "enough" animals, to ensure the notice of loss remains timely. We also have a couple of workshops coming up that will cover the livestock programs we offer, including LIP and the LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) currently available on wool.

### **Upcoming workshops:**

**Thursday, March 19, 2020 @ 2:00 PM** - we will be at W Bar Feed and Ranch Supply, 1519 Highway 24 in Hulett

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020 @ 2:00 PM** - Sundance State Bank Room, 207 N 2nd Street in Sundance

Alan Ista  
Colter Ellsbury

Although these workshops are focused on livestock programs, please come with any questions you may have on any of our programs.

### Next County Committee Meeting:

May 19, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

### Deadline Approaching!

**Next Monday, March 16, 2020** is the deadline to make your election, and complete your 2019 enrollment for ARC/PLC (Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage) contracts. If you do not make this deadline, your farm will receive the default election for the Farm Bill, and will be ineligible for payment for 2019. You may still complete contract enrollment for 2020 and future years. I know we are being very persistent and insistent regarding this deadline, but there are still many of you who generally participate in this program who have not been in to complete this action.

### Spring Crop Reporting and NAP:

If you have not added your spring crops to your NAP policy, or if you have additional crops to add, the deadline for this is April 1st. You are still eligible to add spring crops, even if you have not purchased other coverage this fall. NAP is the Non-insured crop disaster Assistance Program, which provides coverage for crops not insurable through traditional crop insurance.

Lastly, we are getting ready for spring acreage reports. If you have decided you are **not** planting this spring, call us today for an appointment to complete your 2020 acreage report, as we can complete it early. If you are planting this spring, expect to see a postcard in preparation for your appointment, but you can schedule an appointment as soon as you are finished planting.

Did you know we can send you **text reminders**? They come only from the county office, and we send no more than 2 a month. **To subscribe:**

- Text "WYCROOK" to 372-669 (FSANOW).

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## Update Your Records

FSA is always working to clean up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of:

- Address, zip code, phone number, email address, bank account, or change to the name or business name on file
- New LLC, Inc, Trust, etc., or changes to entity members or shares
- Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, renewed leases, or loss of a farm through lease termination or land sale need to be reported to our office as well.
- Any other changes that may impact your personal or farm records with our office.

Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan. Incorrect information can result in eligibility issues and even lost benefits. It also prevents us from being able to contact you with important information or questions.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

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## USDA Announces Updates for Honeybee Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced updates to the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). These updates include changes required by the 2018 Farm Bill as well as discretionary changes intended to improve the administration of the program and clarify existing program requirements. ELAP was previously administered based on FSA's fiscal year but will now run according to the calendar year. Producers are still required to submit an application for payment within 30 calendar days of the end of the program year. This is not a policy change but will affect the deadline. The sign-up deadline for calendar year 2020 losses is January 30, 2021.

Starting in 2020, producers will have **15 days** from when the loss is first apparent, instead of 30 days, to file a honeybee notice of loss. This change provides consistency between ELAP and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which also has a 15-day notice of loss period for honey. For other covered losses, including livestock feed, grazing and farm-raised fish losses, the notice of loss deadline for ELAP will remain 30 days from when the loss is first apparent to the producer.

Program participants who were paid for the loss of a honeybee colony or hive in either or both of the previous two years will be required to provide additional documentation to substantiate how current year inventory was acquired.

If the honeybee colony loss incurred was because of Colony Collapse Disorder, program participants must provide a producer certification that the loss was a direct result of at least three of the five symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder, which include:

- the loss of live queen and/or drone bee populations inside the hives;
- rapid decline of adult worker bee population outside the hives, leaving brood poorly or completely unattended;
- absence of dead adult bees inside the hive and outside the entrance of the hive;
- absence of robbing collapsed colonies; and
- at the time of collapse, varroa mite and Nosema populations are not at levels known to cause economic injury or population decline.

For honeybees, ELAP covers colony losses, honeybee hive losses (the physical structure) and honeybee feed losses in instances where the colony, hive or feed has been destroyed by a natural disaster or, in the case of colony losses, because of Colony Collapse Disorder. Colony losses must be in excess of normal mortality.

ELAP also provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock and farm-raised fish including for feed and grazing losses. It covers losses because of eligible adverse weather or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires on federally managed lands. ELAP also covers losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought.

For more information on ELAP visit [farmers.gov/recover](https://farmers.gov/recover) or contact your FSA County Office. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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## Guaranteed Loan Program

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the

lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt. Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1,776,000. 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 lender or local FSA farm loan office for more information on guaranteed loans. The Farm Loan Officer for Crook County is Rob Weppner, who is located in the Gillette Office, 307-682-8843, ext. 2.

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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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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).