

June 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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- [County Office Notes](#)
- [Nominations Open for the 2020 County Committee Elections](#)
- [FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans](#)
- [Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts](#)

Crook County FSA Updates

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County Office Notes

Hi everyone!

It has definitely been a busy month since I last sent an update. There are lots of things to share with you guys.

First of all, our agency is slowly lifting restrictions for our offices. We are now able to accept customers into the office with an appointment. If you would like to work with us face to face, please call and schedule an appointment in advance. We are also still providing service by phone and email appointments.

The big announcement I have for you all, is that after nearly 30 years of excellent service to FSA, Susan Johnson will be retiring. We will be having an "open air, open house" in front of the office on Tuesday, June 30th from 1-2pm. Please come by to celebrate Susan's accomplishments and retirement with us! If you are not able to make it on Tuesday, we welcome you to stop by the office to say hi to Susan this week, before she starts her new adventures.

- **CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program)** - This is the new program we have, that was authorized in the CARES act. Livestock producers, wool producers, and those who have grown some specific grains or grain hays can participate in this program, even if

Darbi Buckmiller

County Committee:

Ivan Cranston
Jeanne Habeck
Alan Ista
Colter Ellsbury

Next County Committee Meeting:

August 18, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

they have not worked with us before. Please contact the office for more information, or to receive a chart to help you with compiling and organizing the information we need. You can also visit www.farmers.gov/cfap to learn more. We are taking applications for this program through August 28, 2020.

- **Wool LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment)** - This is something available to ALL wool producers, it is not a loan, and you do not need to have a loan with us to participate. The market price for ungraded wool, and many grades of wool are below the price we would issue for a commodity loan. This is what creates the LDP. Page 1 of the CCC-633EZ must be on file before you lose beneficial interest/sell your wool. Page 4 of this document is submitted when you wish to claim the LDP benefit. If you have not submitted a page 1, please contact us right away.
- **Acreage reporting** - Reporting for all spring planted crops, perennial hays, and grazing are due by July 15, 2020. If you have finished planting, or have not already completed your 2020 acreage reporting, please make an appointment to do so. Acreage reports are a required eligibility item for many of our programs, and fees are assessed to file late reports.
- **Production** - Those of you who had spring crops and perennial hay covered by NAP (Noninsured crop disaster Assistance Program) in 2019, need to submit your 2019 production by July 15, 2020. This is also a good time to remind you to provide your 2020 production to the office when you complete your haying. If you decide to graze or leave your hay crop unharvested, please contact the office before you put cows on it.
- **Notices of Loss** - if you incur crop losses, grazing losses, livestock losses, or honeybee losses please contact the office to file a Notice of Loss (NOL) as soon as the loss is apparent. Many programs, NAP being one of them, only allow 15 days for the reporting of the loss. Causes of loss are dependent upon the program, but common causes for this time of year include, but are not limited to: **drought**, lightning, flooding, tornados, and **hail**. It is much easier to have a successful application if you file your losses timely, and keep good records of the loss event. For NAP producers, please also remember to contact the office before you graze or choose not to harvest a covered hay crop. Having an appraisal or other record of production is vital to completing the loss claim.

Also, we have been given the privilege of hiring a temporary program technician. So, next time you come to see us, please help us welcome Darbi Buckmiller to the office.

Please believe that we understand that there is a lot going on all at once, and so if you have questions about these, or any other items, please call!

Thanks!

Sarah

Nominations Open for the 2020 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Name County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of 3 to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year.

The area up for election this year is LAA #2, which is generally the central part of the county, and is currently held by Colter Ellsbury. For more specific information regarding the boundaries of LAA #2, or to determine your LAA, please contact the office.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2020. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a [Direct Farm Ownership Microloan](#) option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$600,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show

documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 or by email at rob.weppner@usda.gov.

Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts

The U.S. Drought Monitor's reporting feature offers producers an opportunity to submit drought impact and condition reports.

The USDA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, produced the U.S. Drought Monitor to include a reporting feature that allows producers to report local drought impacts and conditions.

The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, activities, etc.;
- Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought;
- Report on the duration of drought event;
- Select **Affected Places** – geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within a state;
- Submit images that document the drought and its impact;
- Provide contact information (includes an option to keep information confidential).

The reporting tool for producers to record the effects of the drought can be accessed at the following link: droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/

More information including state specific drought impact maps can be found on the U. S. Drought Monitor homepage: droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx

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.

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).