

July 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Crook County FSA Updates & Reminders

Crook County Farm Service Agency

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County Executive Director:
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Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

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County Office Notes

Hi, everyone!

We had our most recent Workshop Wednesday, this week. You can find the recorded video on the Crook County Natural Resource District's [Facebook page](#). It also gives you access to the notes I used, in case you prefer the text version. This video goes over a lot of the things we have going in the office right now.

If you have been impacted by drought, hail, grasshoppers, tornadoes or any other fabulous Crook County weather, please remember to file a Notice of Loss as soon as possible. Notices of loss might be needed if you have losses for any crops you have covered under NAP, livestock losses, honeybee losses, extra honeybee feed needed, grazing losses due to hail, and many other items. Notices of loss for many items are required to be filed within 15 days of the loss being apparent.

The acreage reporting deadline for spring seeded crops, perennial hay crops, and grazing is next week! July 15, 2020 is the deadline to timely file these reports. Filing these reports after the deadline results in a fee for each farm that is late filed, so I would much

Program Technicians:

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County Committee:

Ivan Cranston

Jeanne Habeck

Alan Ista

Colter Ellsbury

Next County Committee Meeting:

August 18, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

prefer to see you before the deadline. Call to schedule your appointment, today. We can even provide you with a copy of your maps and complete your acreage reporting by mail or email.

If you have not applied for CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program), you still have time. We are taking applications on this program until August 28, 2020. Livestock producers, and specific grains and grain hays are eligible for this program. Call the office to schedule an appointment and learn more about the program. You can also visit <http://www.farmers.gov/cfap>.

Are you, or someone you know, looking for a job? Crook County FSA is currently hiring! The job will require general office skills, computer and communication skills, and the ability to work with people. Complete applications, along with all necessary supporting documents, must be submitted at www.usajobs.gov. See more in the article below.

Lastly, the Crook County Natural Resource District and NRCS will be sponsoring a full day tour to visit one of the oldest cattle ranches in North Dakota and learn how Jerry Doan and his family have converted their land to a regenerative system by working with nature instead of against it. This tour will challenge how you think and what you know about soil health and production agriculture. The tour will be all day Thursday, July 23rd. Please call the Sundance NRCS office at 307-283-2870, extension 3.

Crook County Farm Service Agency is Hiring

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is hiring a County Program Technician in our Crook County Office located in Sundance, WY. Deadline to apply is July 17, 2020.

Responsibilities of the position include:

- Carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to one or more of the program areas administered in the county.
- Interpreting and explaining procedures, program regulations and forms to producers and other agency personnel.
- Utilizing various web-based software applications to maintain producer data and processing automated forms.
- Using a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered.

If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please share this information with them. To obtain additional information about this position and to apply, use the below link to take you directly to the Vacancy Announcement in usajobs.gov

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/572533400>

Contact Sarah Hanlon, County Executive Director at sarah.hanlon@usda.gov or 307-283-2870, extension 2 if you have any questions. You can also contact Julie Williams, Administrative Specialist at 307-261-5142.

Eligibility for Nominations for the 2020 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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 three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by Aug. 1, 2020 (or next business day). 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.

USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

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).