Message From Your County Office

Hi, everyone!

A lot has changed in the world since the March Newsletter. We have new programs and new faces in the office. We are now able to do in-person appointments, if scheduled in advance. We are also still doing phone and email appointments. See the customer calendar on page 3 for additional deadlines.

- **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 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. 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 a fee is assessed to late file a report.

- **Production** - Those of you who had spring crops and perennial hay covered by NAP (Noninsured crop disaster Assistance Program) in 2019, I need 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 unharvested your hay crop, 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, tornadoes, 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. The loss claim will not go well if there is not an appraisal or other record of production.

I know that is a lot going on right now, and so if you have questions about these or any other items, please call!

*Thanks!*

*Sarah Hanlon, CED*
Farmers and Ranchers in Wyoming Can Now Apply for Financial Assistance through USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available to help producers complete applications.

Applications will be accepted through **August 28, 2020**. Through CFAP, USDA is making available $16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply. In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments. You can also contact the Crook County FSA office at 307-283-2870, ext. 2, or sarah.hanlon@usda.gov for information and assistance in completing the application.

Additional Commodities

USDA is also establishing a process for the public to identify additional commodities for potential inclusion in CFAP. Specifically, USDA is looking for data on agricultural commodities, that are not currently eligible for CFAP, that the public believes have either: suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel, or not left the farm or remained unharvested as mature crops. More information about this process is available on farmers.gov/cfap.

**More Information**

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit farmers.gov/cfap, call 307-283-2870, ext 2, or email sarah.hanlon@usda.gov.

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**Nominations Open for the 2020 Crook 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 Crook 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 three 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. 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.

The area up for election this year is LAA #2, currently held by Colter Ellsbury. LAA #2 is generally the middle portion of Crook County. For more specific information, or to determine your LAA, please contact the office.

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.

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**We are HIRING! The Crook County Office in Sundance, WY is hiring a County Program Technician.**

Deadline to apply is July 17, 2020. 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
Farm Programs

- Agricultural Risk & Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC)
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)
- Commodity Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP)

Farm Loans—No Application Deadlines

- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Loans
- Emergency Loans (Time Sensitive)
- Farm Operating Loans (Direct and Guaranteed)
- Farm Ownership Loans (Direct and Guaranteed)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)
- EZ Guarantee and Microloans
- SDA (Women/Minority) Farmer & Rancher Loans
- Youth Loans

Various eligibility requirements are required for both Farm programs and Farm loans.

LFP:
- Within 30 days after the end of the year in which the grazing loss occurred—submit Application for Payment and supporting documentation

LIP:
- Within 30 days of noticing Livestock loss or injury—Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end of the year in which loss or injury occurred—Submit Application for Payment

ELAP:
- Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather—Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss occurred—Submit Application for Payment

NAP:
- December 1 – All perennial grasses, alfalfa, clover, mixed forage, and honey
- March 15 – Hemp
- April 1 – All spring seeded crops
- Within 15 days of crop loss – Submit Notice of Loss
- November 15 (varies by crop) – Final day to submit Application for Payment

Farm Service Agency
- Wyoming State Office
- 951 Werner Court, Suite 130
- Casper, Wyoming 82601
- PH: 307-261-5231

Days USDA Offices Are Closed

Jan. 1 - New Year’s Day Holiday
Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb. 17 - President’s Birthday
May 26 - Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day
Sept. 7 - Labor Day
Oct. 12 - Columbus Day
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25 - Christmas Holiday

Important Links

Farmers.gov - https://www.farmers.gov/
FSA Fence Post - http://fsa.farmers.gov/OfficeDeliveryCom/

Questions?
Contact your local FSA office.
A directory of USDA Service Centers can be found online at offices.usda.gov

GovDelivery Email & SMS Text Updates
Contact your local FSA office ask how you can receive important FSA updates and reminders by email and SMS text subscriptions.

Have you moved?
Changed bank accounts?
Contact your local FSA to update your records.

Stay Connected with USDA:

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP): May 26—August 28

Acreage Reports:
- July 15 – Soybeans, corn, and other spring-planted feed grains, CRP, Hemp, and other crops
- November 15 – Apiiculture (bees), fall-seeded small grains

CRP General Signup: December 9 through February 28

Continuous CRP Signup: August 21

CRP Grasslands: March 16 to May 15

ARC/PLC:
- July 15 – Final date to report production for the preceding crop year
- June 30 – Election and enrollment end for crop year 2020
- October of each contract year after 2020 – Election and enrollment begin for the applicable year
- March 15 of each contract year after 2020 – Election and enrollment end for the applicable year
USDA Farm Service Agency
Crook County Office
P.O. Box 1440
117 South 21st Street
Sundance, WY 82729

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 Rob Weppner at 307-682-8843, ext. 2, or rob.weppner@usda.gov for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.