

August 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Crook County FSA Updates

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**Name County Farm Service Agency**  
**Crook County Farm Service Agency**

**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 -  
[sarah.hanlon@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.hanlon@usda.gov)

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

[rob.weppner@usda.gov](mailto:rob.weppner@usda.gov)

### County Office Notes

Hi, Everyone!

Notice of Loss Season is in full swing! As I mentioned last month, if you have been impacted by drought, hail, heat, wind, grasshoppers, tornados, or any other fabulous Crook County weather I failed to mention above, please remember to file a Notice of Loss as soon as possible.

Notices of loss are applicable if you believe you suffered a loss for any crop, such as hay, grazing, or honey that you may have covered under NAP. They also apply to livestock losses, honeybee losses, and extra honeybee feed purchases. Lastly, if you suffer a grazing loss due to hail, even if you do not have a NAP policy, there are programs that can assist, for which a notice of loss is required.

Notices of loss for NAP and many other items are required to be filed within 15 days of the loss being apparent, and for livestock losses they are required within 30 days.

If you have a hay crop covered under NAP please also remember to ask for an appraisal for any acres you do not hay BEFORE

**Program Technicians:**

Pam Schurman -

[pamela.schurman@usda.gov](mailto:pamela.schurman@usda.gov)

grazing or otherwise destroying the crop. Any acres grazed or destroyed before harvest or appraisal cannot be counted towards the loss.

Darbi Buckmiller -

[darbi.buckmiller@usda.gov](mailto:darbi.buckmiller@usda.gov)

As you may have seen the CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) deadline has been extended to September 11, 2020. If you have not already completed your application, call to get an appointment ASAP. They also expanded the coverage on sheep to include all sheep. If you have already completed an application that includes sheep, please get ahold of us modify the application.

**County Committee:**

Ivan Cranston

Jeanne Habeck

Alan Ista

Colter Ellsbury

With the school year starting, Darbi will be leaving us, her last day is Friday, August 14th. We greatly appreciate her assistance through this busy summer. We also hope to have some new faces to introduce to you all in the next couple of weeks.

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

August 18, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

Lastly, please see the article below and consider providing input regarding local impacts and conditions to the Drought Monitor folks. The more data they have, the more accurate it can be.

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## August 19th - Crook County Covers & Cows Workshop and Tour

Crook County NRCS and Crook County Natural Resource District are hosting "Covers & Cows" - a soil health and cover crop workshop and tour on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 from 9am-3pm.

They will be discussing cover crops, grazing management, and other practices that promote healthy soils, healthy waterways, and a higher quality of life. The workshop will include a local tour and discussions with regional NRCS soil health specialists Marlon Winger and Keela Deaton. Lance Gunderson, President of Regen Ag Lab (and former Director of Soil Health at Ward Laboratories) will also be present to discuss the science behind the Haney soil health test and how to interpret test results.

The tour portion of the workshop will meet at 9am at Dusty Buckmiller's shop (Moorcroft). The classroom portion will be held at the Moorcroft Town Center in the classroom across from Bear Lodge Therapy.

The workshop is free, and lunch will be provided. However, if you are interested in attending, please let us know by August 14th, to have a lunch count. To register, or for more information, please contact Carmen McIntyre at [chmcintyre.ccnrd@gmail.com](mailto:chmcintyre.ccnrd@gmail.com) or Keela Deaton at [keela.deaton@usda.gov](mailto:keela.deaton@usda.gov). We can also be reached at 307.283.2870, ext. 3.

\* Please feel free to bring Haney Soil Health Test results you've received, if you have specific questions you'd like to ask while Lance is available.

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## 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/](http://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](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx)

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## FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) can 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.

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.

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 farm loans, contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843, ext. 2, or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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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, ext. 2, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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