

December 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Crook County FSA Updates

Crook County Farm Service Agency

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

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Program Technicians:
Pam Schurman -
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County Office Notes

Hi Everybody!

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Our office is open, however in person access to the building is still restricted. We are conducting appointments by other methods including phone and email. Please give us a call if there is anything we can do for you!. **Also, please remember our office will be closed on December 24th & 25th, as well as January 1st.**

We are starting to get NAP payments issued. We may be in contact with you if you are missing any of the required documentation.

Please remember to notify us of livestock losses, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation for livestock lost due to many circumstances including adverse weather events that are abnormal or unexpected to occur, such as winter storms, blizzards, and extreme cold. The first eligibility requirement for this program is to file a Notice of Loss within 30 days of the loss being apparent. So, remember to report your losses timely.

Tiffany Volkman -
tiffany.volkman@usda.gov

Anna Schurman -
anna.schurman@usda.gov

County Committee:

Ivan Cranston
Jeanne Habeck
Alan Ista
Colter Ellsbury

Next County Committee Meeting:

January 19, 2021 @ 11:00 AM

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Jeanne Habeck for being elected to serve on the County Committee for LAA #2. We would also like to thank Colter Ellsbury for his great service to the producers in Crook County the past 2 years.

I am very grateful to all of you for being understanding during this strange year full of ever changing procedures, and I hope this holiday season is full of joy.

Merry Christmas!

Sarah

Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the "Start" button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool#step-1 to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

For more information, contact Farm Loan Program staff at 307-682-8843 Ext 2 or visit farmers.gov.

Crook County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Crook County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections for 2020 are over and the ballots have been counted.

Jeanne Habeck was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) #2.

Colter Ellsbury will serve as the first alternate.

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2020 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, and they are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA county committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members impact producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Crook County FSA office at 307-283-2870.

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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