

4/22/2020



# NEWSLETTER



## Goshen County Farm Service Agency:

1441 East M Street, Suite C  
Torrington, WY 82240

Phone: 307-532-4880  
Fax: 855-415-3443

Hours:  
8AM-4:30 PM

## County Executive Director:

Courtney Yelton

## Program Technicians:

Jennifer Baumgartner  
Brian McKenna  
Leisha Orr

## Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount

## County Committee:

David Unverzagt  
Lon Eisenbarth  
Dixie Roth

## Next Committee Meeting:

TBD

## Message From Your County Office

### Greetings from the New CED

Hello everyone! I wanted to take a minute and introduce myself. I am Courtney Yelton and I am the new County Executive Director, replacing Darrell after he retired.

A little bit about me– I grew up in Wyoming then attended LCCC and UW and earned my Bachelor's degree, majoring in Agricultural Education with minors in Agricultural Economics and Biology.

Utilizing my Education degree, I was a Ag Teacher for three years– 2 in North Dakota and 1 year in Wyoming. I made the decision to leave education and ended up in FSA. Before coming to Goshen County I served as the CED of 6 counties in Northwest Colorado and managing offices in Craig, Steamboat Springs, and Meeker, Colorado.

In my personal time, I enjoy traveling, photography, watching baseball, camping, fishing, and collecting and wearing wild and fun socks.

Please swing on by the office any time to introduce yourselves and I look forward to working with the producers of Goshen County.

### Upcoming Deadlines/ Important Dates

- **May 25** – FSA Offices Closed– Memorial Day
- **June 30** – 2020 ARC/PLC Enrollment Deadline
- **July 3** – FSA Offices Closed– Independence Day (Observed)
- **July 15** – Spring Crop Reporting Deadline

## Maps for Acreage Reporting

Maps are now available at the Goshen County FSA Office for acreage reporting purposes. If you wish to receive your maps by e-mail, please call our office or email Brian McKenna at [brian.mckenna@usda.gov](mailto:brian.mckenna@usda.gov).

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

Producers are encouraged to file their acreage reports as soon as planting is completed.

## USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signup

Farmers and ranchers may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup. The signup runs through May 15.

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is either 10 or 15 years. FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35-year anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your local FSA county office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## Livestock Inventory Records

Producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.

## USDA Announces Updates for Honeybee Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced updates to the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). These updates include changes required by the 2018 Farm Bill as well as discretionary changes intended to improve the administration of the program and clarify existing program requirements.

ELAP was previously administered based on FSA's fiscal year but will now run according to the calendar year. Producers are still required to submit an application for payment within 30 calendar days of the end of the program year. This is not a policy change but will affect the deadline. The signup deadline for calendar year 2020 losses is January 30, 2021.

Starting in 2020, producers will have 15 days from when the loss is first apparent, instead of 30 days, to file a honeybee notice of loss. This change provides consistency between ELAP and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which also has a 15-day notice of loss period for honey. For other covered losses, including livestock feed, grazing and farm-raised fish losses, the notice of loss deadline for ELAP will remain 30 days from when the loss is first apparent to the producer.

Program participants who were paid for the loss of a honeybee colony or hive in either or both of the previous two years will be required to provide additional documentation to substantiate how current year inventory was acquired.

If the honeybee colony loss incurred was because of Colony Collapse Disorder, program participants must provide a producer certification that the loss was a direct result of at least three of the five symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder, which include:

- the loss of live queen and/or drone bee populations inside the hives;
- rapid decline of adult worker bee population outside the hives, leaving brood poorly or completely unattended;
- absence of dead adult bees inside the hive and outside the entrance of the hive;
- absence of robbing collapsed colonies; and
- at the time of collapse, varroa mite and Nosema populations are not at levels known to cause economic injury or population decline.

For honeybees, ELAP covers colony losses, honeybee hive losses (the physical structure) and honeybee feed losses in instances where the colony, hive or feed has been destroyed by a natural disaster or, in the case of colony losses, because of Colony Collapse Disorder. Colony losses must be in excess of normal mortality.

ELAP also provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock and farm-raised fish including for feed and grazing losses. It covers losses because of eligible adverse weather or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires on federally managed lands. ELAP also covers losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought.

For more information on ELAP visit [farmers.gov/recover](https://farmers.gov/recover) or contact your FSA County Office. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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## **USDA Farm Service Agency Offers Text Alerts to Goshen County Producers**

*Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Reminders and Updates*

Goshen County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Courtney Yelton announced that farmers and ranchers in Wyoming now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates.

Producers can text **WYGoshen** to **FSANOW (372-669)** to subscribe to text message alerts from Goshen County. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Please contact your local FSA office at 307-532-4880 if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the new text message option.

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).