

Summer
2020



**Goshen County Farm
Service Agency:**

1441 East M Street, Suite C
Torrington, WY 82240

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

Hours: 8:00AM-4:30PM

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

Summer is officially here! The wheat is turning, most of the corn was knee high by the 4th of July, 4H and FFA members are putting the finishing touches on County Fair projects and animals, and pivots are running. The staff in the Goshen County FSA Office are also hard at work, working to help the producers of this County. We have been busy processing acreage reports, sending maps to be marked, processing CFAP Applications, wrapping up the 2020 ARC/PLC Sign-Up, and finishing up the final details on the CRP Sign-Up that was held this spring. To date, we have paid out over \$3 million to producers in Goshen County through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in just a few short weeks. We still are continuing to process these applications as fast as they come in. **Please complete any eligibility paperwork that is sent to you as we only have 60 days to complete this paperwork from the date the CFAP Application is received.**

Additionally, we are watching the drought monitor and drought conditions very closely for the county. Emergency grazing of CRP ground would be eligible if any part of the county hits a D2 drought. Additionally, if any part of the county hits a D2 drought, AND stays in a D2 drought for 8 consecutive weeks, Goshen County would be eligible for benefits under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Furthermore, if any part of the county hits a D3 drought, the county would automatically be eligible for LFP. Please watch future bulletins for more information about LFP eligibility. Acreage reports are required for LFP, so now is a great time to file an acreage report, just in case!

Upcoming Deadlines/ Important Dates

July 15– Spring Crop Reporting Deadline– 30 day extension to August 14, 2020

August 28– CFAP Application Deadline

September 7– Office Closed- Labor Day

2020 Spring Acreage Reports

The deadline for submitting acreage reports for spring planted crops is July 15, 2020. However, due to the recent change in office procedure due to COVID-19, that deadline was pushed back 30 days to August 14, 2020. This 30 day extension removes the late file fee and spot check requirement for County Office Staff. **Please call the Goshen County FSA office at 307-532-4880 x2 to make an appointment for completing your 2020 Acreage Report!**

Nominations Open for the 2020 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 Goshen 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.

This year LAA 2 is open for nominations and elections.

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 land-owners and/or operators who have limited resources.

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.

Report Changes in the Intended use of Crop: Grain to Hay-Haying to Grazing- Silage to Hay

Conditions may have changed since you planted and certified the intended use of your crop. Plans may have changed due to lack of precipitation, heat and high winds, lack of irrigation water or because of storm damages such as hail.

If your plans have changed and you're going to graze instead of hay your crop or cut for hay or silage instead of harvesting for grain, then you must report the change of intended use to the Goshen County FSA Office. Failure to timely report your decision to change the use of crops can result in the loss of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) benefits. Producers can report the change in intended use of a crop up until the final acreage reporting deadline.

When grass fails to meet your pasture needs, you may consider grazing hay fields rather than harvesting third or fourth cuttings. Changing the use to grazing may require producers to meet with the FSA appraiser and establish representative samples for a fall appraisal.

Crops with NAP coverage that will not be harvested must be inspected by an FSA Loss Adjuster in order to maintain NAP eligibility. Destruction of the crop or allowing deterioration of the crop without an inspection can result in the loss of program eligibility.

Failure to timely report these changes can result in the loss of NAP benefits. All producers considering a change of intended use, destruction of the crop prior to the end of the crop year, or those who may be unsure of their certification should contact the Goshen County FSA office at 307-532-4880 ext. 2 for more information.

Changing Bank Accounts

FSA program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify your FSA servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for whatever reason (such as your financial institution merging or being purchased). Payments can be delayed if FSA is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

For some programs, payments are not made until the following year. For example, payments for crop year 2019 through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program aren't paid until 2020. If the bank account was closed due to the death of an individual or dissolution of an entity or partnership before the payment was issued, please notify your local FSA office as soon as possible to claim your payment.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

ELAP Covers Losses from Additional Cost of Transporting Water to Livestock

Assistance is available to livestock producers through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) for producers who have incurred additional operating costs for transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought.

An eligible drought means that part or all of a county is designated D3 (extreme drought) or higher as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). Producers must file a notice of loss on form CCC-851 the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer, or by Jan. 30, 2020. Additionally, the deadline to submit an application for payment for 2020 ELAP assistance is Feb. 1, 2021.

To qualify for ELAP, eligible livestock must be: adult or non-adult dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo and beefalo, as well as alpacas, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer, or sheep.

Additionally, the livestock must have been owned 60 calendar days prior to the beginning of the drought and be physically located in the county designated as a disaster area due to drought. Adequate livestock watering systems or facilities must have existed before the drought occurred and producers are only eligible if they do not normally transport water to the livestock.

Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot are not eligible for transporting water. ELAP covers the additional cost of transporting water and does not cover the cost of the water itself.

Producers will have to provide documentation to FSA that shows the method used to transport the water, the number of gallons of water transported and the number of eligible livestock to which water was transported.

Livestock producers should contact FSA to make an appointment to sign up for ELAP and to learn more about eligibility, application and documentation requirements.

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The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.

Producers who receive survey questionnaires should respond quickly and online if possible.

The results of the surveys help determine the structure of USDA farm programs, such as soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program and prices and yields used for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. This county-level data is critical for USDA farm payment determinations. Survey responses also help associations, businesses and policymakers advocate for their industry and help educate others on the importance of agriculture.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS data is available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](#). Watch a video on how NASS data is used at youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be.

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).