

October 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Goshen County FSA Updates

### Goshen County Farm Service Agency

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**County Executive Director:**  
Courtney Yelton

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Dixie Mount (Platte Co.)

**Program Technicians:**  
Jennifer Baumgartner  
Kate Jackson  
Brian McKenna  
Leisha Orr

**County Committee:**  
Lon Eisenbarth

### CED Comments & Upcoming Deadlines

October is here and we have officially launched into a new fiscal year at the FSA office. As we are still trying to finish up crop year 2020, we are now looking ahead into crop year 2021 as well. With October coming, the annual payments for CRP and ARC/PLC come with it. **We paid the ARC/PLC payments this week and you should see them start hitting your checking accounts by early next week.** Goshen County totaled over \$1.3 million paid in one day for ARC/PLC. **CRP payments are scheduled to be run this weekend. We check the payment system multiple times a day- as soon as we have it, you'll have it.**

LFP Appointments are in full swing. We are now scheduling out into December. We appreciate your patience and your attendance at our producer meetings last week. We have until February 1st to get everyone in and applications made so if you would like to wait until after the 1st of the year to apply and receive a payment, please let us know.

We are also currently running a sign-up for CFAP 2. **Please do not complete a manual application form found online.** Please contact Jennifer to get signed up, or come to the lobby and complete one of the green sheets and leave it in the box to be

Dixie Roth  
David Unverzagt

processed. Jennifer has several helpful handouts that are available in the lobby to assist in filling out the forms correctly.

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

**December 10, 2020**

As a reminder, **due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are allowing in-person visits to occur, only if an appointment is scheduled in advance.** We cannot accommodate walk-ins at this time. If you require an appointment, please contact the office and we will get you scheduled.

**Upcoming Deadlines/Important Dates**

October 12- Columbus Day- Office Closed

November 11- Veteran's Day- Office Closed

**November 15- Fall Planted Crops- Acreage Reporting Deadline**

November 26- Thanksgiving- Office Closed

**December 1- NAP Forage/Grazing Application for Coverage Deadline**

**December 11- CFAP 2 Application Deadline**

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## **FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections**

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 2, 2020, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 7, 2020.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs, conservation programs, incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities, emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 2, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2021.

The candidates were asked to write a brief bio about themselves which is below. The candidates in this year's election are:

**Roger Huckfeldt-** Roger Huckfeldt has lived on his ranch north of Torrington in Goshen County since 1994. After selling off the irrigated farm several years ago, the operation remains primarily a cattle operation, although a few head of paint horses still remain. Roger has served as Goshen County's State Representative, been on the Goshen County Predator Board, Goshen County

Chamber of Commerce President, and stays active in the community and church activities. Roger is willing to serve the 3 year term if elected.

**Steven Schmick-** Steven Schmick is nominated in Goshen County to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term. Steven lives in Torrington and for 27 years has produced dry beans, corn, barley, wheat, and alfalfa, as well as raising sheep and cattle. Steve has served on the Rock Ranch Ditch Irrigation Board for the past 20 years. Steve is willing to serve the 3 year term if elected.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2020 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) or at a local USDA Service Center.

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## Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) began on Sept. 21, 2020 and will continue through Dec. 11, 2020. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our [brief video](#) about the program.

CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. Details on how to apply can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](https://farmers.gov/cfap/apply).

### CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder

Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than CFAP 1. Interested in finding the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 payment rates for the eligible commodities you grow or raise? Our new, easy-to-use [CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder](#) makes finding payment rates specific to your operation simple. From yam to alpaca farmers – and everyone in between – the payment rate information you need is just a few clicks away. Try it today on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

### Call Center

A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff.

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## Farm Loan Graduation Reminder for Direct Loan Borrowers

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct Loans are considered a temporary source of credit available to producers who do not meet normal underwriting criteria for commercial banks.

FSA periodically conducts Direct Loan graduation reviews to determine a borrower's ability to graduate to commercial credit. If the borrower's financial condition has improved to a point where they can refinance their debt with commercial credit, they will be asked to obtain other financing and partially or fully pay off their FSA debt.

By the end of a producer's operating cycle, the Agency will send a letter requesting a current balance sheet, actual financial performance and a projected farm budget. The borrower has 30 days to return the required financial documents. This information will be used to evaluate the borrower's potential for refinancing to commercial credit.

If a borrower meets local underwriting criteria, FSA will send the borrower's name, loan type, balance sheet, and projected cash flow to commercial lenders. The borrower will be notified when loan information is sent to local lenders.

If any lenders are interested in refinancing the borrower's loan, FSA will send the borrower a letter with a list of lenders interested in refinancing the loan. The borrower must contact the lenders and complete an application for commercial credit within 30 calendar days.

If a commercial lender rejects the borrower, the borrower must obtain written evidence that specifies the reasons for rejection and submit to their local FSA farm loan office.

If a borrower fails to provide the requested financial information or to graduate, FSA will notify the borrower of noncompliance, FSA's intent to accelerate the loan, and appeal rights.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Courtney Yelton at 307-534-4880 x2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).