

November 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Goshen County FSA Updates

### Goshen County Farm Service Agency **CED Comments & Upcoming Deadlines**

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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

First of all, a HUGE thank you to our great producers who have been so patient with our appointment system and have been coming prepared to their appointments! Running our LFP and CFAP 2 sign-up during a pandemic is not ideal, but it has been going incredibly smoothly, due entirely to our fantastic producers. To date, we have obligated over \$3 million in CFAP 2 to producers in Goshen County. Please continue telling your neighbors and friends about our programs.

One key program change I would like to point out is a change under our NAP Insurance. The new regulations state that any entity that is at least 50% owned by a woman or any traditionally underserved member, they qualify for FREE NAP. Additionally, if you are a sole owner and fit into any of the above categories, you would also qualify for FREE NAP. This coverage would be for your grazing and hay crops. Please contact the office by December 1st to see if you qualify or for more information.

Masks are required for in-person appointments. If you feel more comfortable not wearing a mask, we will gladly serve you through email or the phones.

Dixie Roth  
David Unverzagt

**Next County Committee Meeting: December 10, 2020**

Ballots for the COC Election have begun going out this week. Please return your ballots by mail, or feel free to drop them off in the pink box in the lobby, or knock on the door to return in person. A reminder- only 1 ballot can be returned per envelope and all ballots must be signed.

**Upcoming Deadlines/ Important Dates**

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 7- Deadline for COC Election Ballots**

**December 11- CFAP 2 Application Deadline**

## **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.

## Noninsured Crop Coverage Helps Producers Manage Risk

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps you manage risk through coverage for both crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters. The eligible or "noninsured" crops include agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance.

*You must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop in the crop year in which the loss incurred to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.*

### NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Buy-up levels of NAP coverage are available if the producer can show at least one year of previously successfully growing the crop for which coverage is being requested.

Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

### NAP Service Fees

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

### NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans

Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification*."

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, contact your Goshen County USDA Service Center at 307-532-4880 x2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://fsa.usda.gov/nap).

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## Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Goshen/Platte County is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

**Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

**Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact CED Courtney Yelton at 307-532-4880 x2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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