



NEWSLETTER



March 2020

Laramie County FSA Office

11221A US Hwy 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009

(307) 772-2314 ext. 2

Fax: 855-415-3429

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Upcoming Office Closures:

May 25th - Memorial Day

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Robin B. Hudson, CED
Sarah Marquardt, PT
Karla Warren, PT
Tamara Morrison, PT

County Committee:

Theron Anderson
Dave Bowman
Brian Jacobsen
Heidi Romsa, advisor

Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount
307-322-4050 ext. 3110
dixie.mount@usda.gov

Next COC Meeting:

TBD

A monthly bulletin is also sent out through email. Please contact the office, if you would like to start receiving them.

Thank you for everything you do for agriculture!

Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of their time and to make sure FSA staff is available to tend to their important business needs. Please call your local FSA office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment. To find your local FSA office, visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to your local FSA office as soon as possible. When making ownership changes please provide a copy of the land deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Please remember this includes deeding your land into a revocable trust. Other changes that need to be reported are changes in the structure of an entity. If you make changes to your corporation, LLC or partnership please let the office know. The types of changes that need to be reported include, but are not limited to: change in member, change in share, adding a minor, or current member becomes deceased. A reminder that the failure to maintain accurate farm records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can cause potential loss of program eligibility.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2020 COC Election

The Laramie County FSA office is requesting your help in soliciting COC member nominations for LAA #3 starting June 15, 2020. This area is the western part of Laramie County. The County Committee administers FSA farm programs at the county and area level. It is very important for the COC to be representative of the producers in the county or area, with special emphasis in recruiting minorities and women, so programs are administered fairly among all producers.

COC's have a vital role in determining eligibility for Farm Loan Programs and all other programs administered by FSA such as Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage contracts, Conservation Reserve Program, Price Support Loans, and other emergency programs. These programs help stabilize farm income while preserving the quality of the environment.

An eligible nominee is any landowner or operator in Laramie County listed on the eligible voter list for LAA#3 that actively participates in farming or ranching and is at least 18 years old. The candidate must also be willing to serve by filling out an FSA-669A. COC meetings are normally conducted every other month. The successful candidate receives a stipend for their time and travel.

2020 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Laramie County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Laramie County:

July 15, 2020 spring planted crops (I.E.: sunflowers, corn, oats, etc.) and all perennial crops and CRP

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Laramie County FSA office at 307-772-2314 ext. 2.

Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur **due to natural disasters** including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

Eligible producers must purchase NAP coverage for 2020 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

2020 NAP coverage must be purchased by March 16th for Hemp and by April 1st for other spring planted crops.

Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2020 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- **Proof of death documentation**
- **Copy of grower's contracts**
- **Proof of normal mortality documentation**

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.

Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Program

Please note that the deadline to sign up for 2019 ARC/PLC is **March 16, 2020**.

The deadline to sign up for 2020 ARC/PLC is **June 30, 2020**.

You also can potentially update your yields for PLC until **September 30, 2020**. The yield update is based on the ground's yield history from crop years 2013-2017.

Please contact the office with any questions and/or to make an appointment.

Dates to Remember

March 16, 2020	Final date for 2019 ARC/PLC enrollment
March 16, 2020	Final date to sign up for NAP for 2020 Hemp coverage
April 01, 2020	Final date to sign up for NAP for 2020 spring crop coverage
May 15, 2020	Nesting Season Begins – No activity to be conducted on CRP until July 16th
June 30, 2020	Final date for 2020 ARC/PLC enrollment
July 15, 2020	Deadline to report 2020 spring planted crops, CRP, and grasses
July 15, 2020	Final 2019 NAP production reports are due for certain NAP crops
Sept. 30, 2020	Final date to submit PLC yield updates

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Robin B. Hudson at 30-772-2314 ext. 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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).

Receive Text Alerts from FSA

Farmers and ranchers in Wyoming can now receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Producers who are interested to receive Laramie County Wyoming text alerts should text: **WYLaramie to 372-669.**