

April 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Laramie County FSA Updates

Laramie County FSA Office

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Laramie County Comments

Happy April Laramie County Farmers and Ranchers!

FSA is taking measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Staff will continue to come into the office, but they will be working with our producers by phone appointment only, and with online tools whenever possible. Please see below article for more information.

If you lose livestock due to a natural disaster; we may be able to help through our LIP program. Please contact the office within 30 days of the incident to report losses. Please note that we will also require records including, but not limited to; proof of death, beginning and ending inventory, and documentation of type and weight range.

2020 ARC/PLC signup ends June 30, 2020. Please contact the office if you have not completed your signups.

Acreage reports for spring crops, perennial crops, and CRP need to be completed by July 15, 2020. Please let us know when you are done planting.

Offers for CRPG are currently being taken. Please see below article for more information.

Brian Jacobsen
Heidi Romsa, Advisor

Thank you for everything you do!

**Next County Committee
Meeting: TBD**

USDA Service Centers Open for Business by Phone Appointment Only

U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Centers are encouraging visitors to take precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Laramie County USDA Service Center will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call to schedule a phone appointment.

Farm Service Agency: 307-772-2314 extension 2

Natural Resources Conservation Service: 307-772-2314 extension 3

Employees may also be contacted by email at:

robin.hudson@usda.gov
sarah.marquardt@usda.gov
karla.warren@usda.gov

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the [Conservation Client Gateway](#). Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in.

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grassland Sign-up

Sign-up began March 16 and continues through May 15, 2020

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands is part of the Conservation Reserve Program, a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is protected and used for conserving benefits.

With CRP Grasslands, landowners and operators can protect grasslands, including rangeland and pasture land, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands with certain limitations. Producers retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation and construct firebreaks and fences subject to restrictions during primary wildlife nesting

season. There are certain producer and land eligibility requirements that must be met before the land can be offered into the CRP Grassland program. Participants may receive annual payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is either 10 to 15 years.

FSA will rank applications using several ranking factors including existence of expiring CRP acres, number of grassland acres, existing multi-species covers and predominance of native species and cost to determine the number of acres accepted into the program.

For more information about CRP Grasslands eligibility or sign-up, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or contact the Laramie County FSA Office at 307-772-2314 ext. 2.

USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Robin B. Hudson](mailto:Robin.B.Hudson@fsa.usda.gov) at [307-772-2314](tel:307-772-2314) extension 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).