

June 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Laramie County Comments](#)
- [Eligibility for Elections for the 2020 County Committee](#)
- [Farmers and Ranchers in Wyoming Can Now Apply for Financial Assistance through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#)
- [Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#)

Laramie County FSA Updates

Laramie County FSA Office

11221A US Hwy 30"
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Phone: 307-772-2314 ext. 2
Fax: 855-415-3429

County Executive Director:
Robin B. Hudson

Farm Loan Manager:
Dixie Mount

Program Technicians:
Sarah Marquardt
Karla Warren
Catelyn Cornils

County Committee:
Theron Anderson
Dave Bowman

Laramie County Comments

Happy June Laramie County Farmers and Ranchers!

Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) signup for the 2020 year needs to be completed by June 30, 2020. Please contact the office/send in your contracts ASAP if you still need to sign up.

Acreage Reporting deadline is July 15, 2020. Please contact the office as soon as you are done planting, so that we can finish up your crop reports. With Coronavirus procedures in place; crop reporting is going to be a little different. Please work with us to complete your acreage reports by mail, email, fax and phone in a timely manner.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) signup is in full force. This program signup is running through August 28, 2020. Please see below article for more information.

County Committee nomination period is about to start! If you would like to nominate someone for LAA #3-you can do so between June 15th and August 3rd on a FSA669A. Please see below article for more information about COC member eligibility.

Thank you for all that you do!

Brian Jacobsen
Heidi Romsa

**Next County Committee
Meeting: TBD**

Eligibility for Elections for the 2020 County Committee

It is important that every eligible producer participate in committee elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture. The 2020 election in Laramie County will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA): LAA 3 – all farms located to the west of County Road 136.

To be eligible to vote in the elections, a person must: Meet requirement one (see explanation below) *OR* meet requirement two, *and* requirement three (see explanation below).

- **Requirement One:** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either: an individual who meets one or more of the following; (a) is eligible and capable to vote in one's own right, (b) is a partner of a general partnership, (c) is a member of a joint venture **OR** an authorized representative of a legal entity, such as: (a) a corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership or other business enterprise, excluding general partnership and joint ventures or (b) a state, political subdivision of a state or any state agency (only the designated representative may cast a vote for the entity).
- **Requirement Two:** Not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.
- **Requirement Three:** Participates or cooperates in an FSA program that is provided by law.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November 2020. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA service center will be early December 2020.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Farmers and Ranchers in Wyoming Can Now Apply for Financial Assistance through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Online Tools and Toll-Free Number Available to Assist Producers

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a good first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

Applying for Assistance

Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Those who use the online calculator tool will be able to print off a pre-filled CFAP application, sign, and submit to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery. Please contact your local office to determine the preferred method. Find contact information for your local office at farmers.gov/cfap.

Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested after the application is filed. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

Additional Commodities

USDA is also establishing a process for the public to identify additional commodities for potential inclusion in CFAP. Specifically, USDA is looking for data on agricultural commodities, that are not currently eligible for CFAP, that the public believes to have either:

1. suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,
2. shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel, or
3. not left the farm or remained unharvested as mature crops.

More information about this process is available on farmers.gov/cfap.

More Information

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit farmers.gov/cfap or call 877-508-8364.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm Service Agency would like to remind farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their loans, of key items for maintaining loan collateral. It is required that borrowers must obtain prior consent, or approval, by either FSA, for direct loans, or by a guaranteed lender, for any transaction affecting real estate security. Examples of these transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind:
- Easements of any kind:
- Subordinations:
- Partial releases, and
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements set forth in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](#).

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Robin Hudson](#) at [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).