

August 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Laramie County FSA Updates

Laramie County Farm Service Agency

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County Committee:
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Laramie County Comments

Happy August Laramie County Farmers and Ranchers!

Crop reporting has been extended this year to August 14, 2020 without a late-file penalty. If you have not certified; please contact our office to set up an appointment ASAP.

Routine Haying & Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is open. If you are interested, please contact the office to check for eligibility of acres and get paperwork in place. All cattle or bales must be removed from the CRP by September 30th, 2020. Laramie County is not eligible for Emergency Haying and Grazing at this time.

Price Loss Coverage (PLC) yield updates are also due by September 30th. If you would like to try to increase the PLC yields established on your farm; please contact the office and we will go over the process.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) sign up deadline is August 28th. If you are looking to apply; time is running out! Any supporting eligibility paperwork for CFAP is also

Brian Jacobsen
Heidi Romsa

due within 60 days of your application submittal, or your application will be canceled, and funds will not be distributed.

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

As always; please let us know if you have a change of address, contact number, email, change of bank account for your direct deposit, or changes in the operation or ownership of land.

Thank you for all you do!

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in 2020 County Committee Elections

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 2, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the 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 LAA3, 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 and will serve for a 3 year term.

The candidate in this year's election is:

T.J. Hollingsworth - LAA-3 –covers all farms and ranches west of Road 136 in Laramie County.

USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds from China

USDA is aware that people across the country have received suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation. USDA urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their [State plant regulatory official](#) or [APHIS State plant health director](#). Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins. At this time, we don't have any evidence indicating this is something other than a "brushing scam" where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales.

USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents and determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment. USDA is committed to preventing the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protecting U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds. Visit the [APHIS' website](#) to learn more about USDA's efforts to stop agricultural smuggling and promote trade compliance.

Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre-authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer's account at a financial institution.

PAD may be useful if you use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines. Click forms and search for "Form 3550-28."

If you have a "filter" on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three-month period, the preauthorized debit agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

For more information about PAD, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Robin B. Hudson at 307-772-2314 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).