



# NEWSLETTER



## September 2020

### **Laramie County FSA**

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:**

October 12<sup>th</sup>-Columbus Day  
November 11<sup>th</sup>-Veterans Day  
November 26<sup>th</sup>-Thanksgiving

### **Farm Service Agency Staff:**

Robin B. Hudson, CED  
Sarah Marquardt, PT  
Karla Warren, PT  
Catelyn Cornils, 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:**

December 10, 2020

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!

## **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

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

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## **Update Your Records**

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database and needs your help. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office. You should also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase.

FSA and NRCS program participants are required to promptly report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and to update their Farm Operating Plan on form CCC-902.

To update your records, contact your Laramie County USDA Service Center at 307-772-2314 ext. 2.

## **USDA Reminds Producers to Complete Crop Acreage Reports**

Agricultural producers in Laramie County must complete crop acreage reports by the November 15th deadline. The November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline applies to fall planted crops such as wheat and triticale.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Laramie County:

November 15, 2020	all fall planted small grains
July 15, 2020	all spring planted and perennial crops

Due to the pandemic, FSA has implemented acreage reporting flexibilities. To complete your acreage report, please call the Laramie county FSA office to schedule an appointment. FSA can work with producers to file timely acreage reports by phone, email, online tools and virtual meetings as well as by appointment in person.

For questions, Contact Laramie County FSA at 307-772-2314 ext. 2 or visit [farmers.gov/crop-acreage-reports](https://farmers.gov/crop-acreage-reports).



## **Laramie County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of November 15th.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

The following crops in Laramie County have a NAP application deadline of December 1, 2020:

- All perennial forages (Grasses, Mixed Forages)
- Triticale (fall planted)

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. 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.

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.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA’s online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact the Laramie County FSA office at 307-772-2314 ext. 2 or visit the web at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap).

## **Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts**

The U.S. Drought Monitor includes a reporting feature that allows producers to report local drought impacts and conditions.

The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, activities, etc.
- Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought
- Report on the duration of drought event
- Select *Affected Places* – geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within a state
- Submit images that document the drought and its impact
- Provide contact information (with the option to keep information confidential)

The reporting tool can be accessed at: [droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/](https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/)

More information, including state specific drought impact maps, can be found at [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx)

## **USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that organic producers and handlers can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). Applications for eligible certification expenses paid between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020, are due Oct. 31, 2020.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Eligible expenses for cost-share reimbursement include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

### **Changes in Reimbursement**

Due to expected participation levels and the limited funds available, FSA revised the reimbursement amount available through fiscal year 2023. Certified producers and handlers are now eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope.

This change will allow a larger number of certified organic operations to receive assistance. If Congress authorizes additional funding, FSA may provide additional assistance to certified operations that have applied for OCCSP, not to exceed 75 percent of their eligible costs, up to \$750 per scope.

The changes to the payment calculation and maximum payment amount are applicable to all certified organic operations, regardless of whether they apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency. State agencies that are interested in overseeing reimbursements to producers and handlers in their states must establish new agreements with FSA for fiscal 2020.

To learn more about USDA support for organic agriculture, visit [usda.gov/organic](https://usda.gov/organic)



<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
September 30, 2020	Final date to submit PLC yield updates.
September 30, 2020	Final date to be haying or grazing CRP. Livestock and bales must be removed prior to Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020.
October 12, 2020	Office closed - Observance of Columbus Day.
October 31, 2020	2020 Organic Certification Cost Share Program applications are due.
November 11, 2020	Office closed – Veteran’s Day.
November 15, 2020	Deadline to report Fall planted crops.
November 26, 2020	Office closed – Thanksgiving Day.

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).

**\*Due to COVID-19 requirements you must make an appointment for admittance into the Laramie County FSA office. Please call 307-772-2314 ext. 2 to schedule your visit\***

**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.**